

## Proposed South Coast Marine Park

### Community Information Sessions Response to Questions

#### Session 4: Esperance (Morning) – 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Question	Response
1. Will there be economic opportunities beyond current fishing industries - i.e., could research of sponges identification and other marine things beside fish research be funded?  2. Will the establishment of a Marine Park along the south coast help to attract more research?	Definitely. That has been the case with other marine parks in Western Australia. We would expect the same to occur if a marine park is created on the south coast.
3. Can I still dive in a marine park?	Yes, in all zones.
4. What is meant by linking conservation zones? Is it a physical link? Side by side? Please elaborate on the need to link.	A proportion of marine biota and in particular larvae are mobile and move inside/outside of conservation zones. It is therefore important that these zones are connected as a network (this does not mean a physical connection, but rather minimising distances between highly protected zones where possible).
5. Will there be zones for seasonal use or restrictions? Ie during spawning	This will be determined through the planning process, however, it is important to note that marine parks are not a fisheries management tool. 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. DPIRD continues fisheries management, within and outside of marine parks. Any seasonal closures will be a direct response to sustainability concerns or increased fishing pressure, not tied into the zoning of the marine park.

<p>6. Do the sanctuaries get put in place after the Marine Park is established? What is the process for that?</p>	<p>The zoning scheme will be designed in consultation with traditional owners and stakeholders using the best available science, cultural and social information. Following the creation of the proposed marine park, a classified waters notice will be published in the government gazette (under section 62 of the <i>Conservation and Land Management Act 1984</i>) detailing the zone boundaries and activities which are not compatible with the zone type. Following gazettal of the zoning schemes, legislation is made under the <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994</i> (FRMA) to give effect to any fishing prohibitions in the marine parks. A 12-month transition period between gazettal of the zoning schemes and implementation of the fishing prohibitions under the FRMA will apply.</p>
<p>7. Is it true that sanctuary zone have to be where you fish? As stated in the Carijoa report ?</p> <p>8. The carijoae report states p 110 that sanctuary zones have to be on fishing areas, is that what you are looking at doing here?</p>	<p>The Wilson report and <a href="#">Carijoa Report</a> recommend that areas of representative key habitats and high biodiversity be considered for inclusion in sanctuary zones. The Carijoa Report also explains that successful no take areas should be placed near people, not far out of the way and out of sight, to ensure they can be used to assess the effects of no take areas. The report goes on to explain a number of other considerations in zoning, such as the need to cover a range of depth, sediment and social (i.e. proximity to human activity) gradients. The location of fishing is one of many factors to be considered in zoning design and the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCAs) will aim to minimise impacts on commercial and recreational fishers through the planning process.</p>
<p>9. If you don't have enough science where do you get your information from for your zoning?</p>	<p>The science behind the effectiveness of sanctuary zones in general is now well established after 2-3 decades of significant research world-wide, including in Australia. This research underpins a number of design principles that guide the development of zoning schemes and the placement of sanctuary zones. The best available information will be used to design the proposed marine park zoning scheme.</p> <p><a href="#">The Guidelines for Establishing the National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas</a> (NRSMPA) provide advice on the zoning design of marine parks. The NRSMPA is a national system of marine protected areas which aims to contain a comprehensive, adequate and representative sample of Australia's marine ecosystems. The NRSMPA guidelines recognise that information on a range of attributes for many areas is not complete and in those instances the guidelines advise that the best available information should be used. In the absence of fine scale habitat mapping for</p>

	the proposed marine park broadscale information will be used to protect areas across the full range of bioregions and across a range of different depths and exposures from inshore areas to offshore areas.
10. Is there data to show in Esperance that species have declined? The reasons for the decline? Changes in diversity of species?	<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 proposed south coast marine park (PSCMP).</p> <p>DPIRD continues fisheries management, within and outside of marine parks. The last annual <a href="#">State of the Fisheries Report (19-20)</a> states that 98% of our fish stocks were assessed as not being at risk or vulnerable through fishing.</p>
11. I've noticed plastic waste washing ashore getting worse, esp after storms. Much is fishing gear. Can a requirement be created using GPS to track gear and for owners take responsibility to retrieve it	Management strategies to address key pressures on ecological values, including plastic marine debris, will be identified through development of the indicative management plan in consultation with stakeholders and the community.
12. Where the minister mines and petroleum has a say, is there a perceived potential for all of the work to be discarded by this minister?	The approach that is taken is to resolve any mining and fishing concerns to the satisfaction of the two current Ministers so that the process does not fail. It is an important check and balance.
13. Some of the areas look more than 3 nautical miles off shore, can you confirm the proposed area in more detail.	The proposed marine park will be in State waters, and therefore cannot extend further out than 3 nautical miles.
14. How many hectares does the proposed park cover?	The outer boundaries of the PSCMP are still to be determined.
15. Will commercial operators (ie fishers) be compensated if they are negatively impacted financially by the implementation of a marine park?	Government is committed to providing fair compensation to all commercial fishers, where a marine park results in a reduction in the market value of their authorisation. Currently, the <i>Fishing and Related Industries Compensation (Marine Reserves) Act 1997</i> (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>16. What's the difference between Marine Park Marine Management Areas Marine Nature Reserve?</p>	<p><b>Marine parks</b> are created to protect ecological and cultural values while allowing recreational and commercial uses that do not compromise conservation values. Marine parks are multiple-use reserves that cater for a wide range of activities. Marine parks are zoned using one or a combination of zone types; general use zones, recreation zones, special purpose zones and sanctuary zones.</p> <p><b>Marine nature reserves</b> are 'look but don't take' areas created primarily for conservation and scientific research and are designed to protect a particular significant ecosystem or habitat. Low-impact tourism may be permitted, but no recreational or commercial fishing, aquaculture, pearling, petroleum drilling or production is allowed.</p> <p><b>Marine management areas</b> provide an integrated management structure over areas that have high conservation value and intensive multiple-use.</p>
<p>17. Carijoa Report - how many locals residents and ocean users (professionals in their field) were involved in this review?</p>	<p>The <a href="#">Carijoa Report</a> was a review of over 240 published scientific reports, articles, publications and other related research and data. Many of the studies in the report involved research in and on the water on the south coast involving local residents and ocean users .</p>
<p>18. If we have effective fisheries management, why do we need a Marine Park?</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>DPIRD continues fisheries management, within and outside of marine parks. Marine parks may work alongside fisheries management and environmental protection laws to keep our aquatic environment and marine ecosystems healthy and resilient.</p>
<p>19. What has made the impacts and changes on the South Coast? Climate change or direct damage from man (overfishing etc)</p>	<p>There is evidence to show effects of human footprints on the size of fished species, that have occurred closer to human populations (<a href="#">Bosch et al. 2021</a>) However, marine parks are a tool used for the conservation of biodiversity and not fisheries management. They are an insurance policy used to ensure the marine environment remains in a healthy state where possible.</p>
<p>20. Is it 5 millions hectares of marine park or land as well?</p>	<p>The 5 million hectares relates to both marine and terrestrial combined, not solely marine.</p>

<p>21. How does the marine park ensure resilience against element that you can't control?</p> <p>22. How does a marine park prevent change in the marine environment? How does a marine park control water temperature, heat wave etc???</p> <p>23. Does climate change effect stop at the boundaries of the marine park?</p>	<p>Marine parks provide the opportunity to build resilience by maintaining healthy marine ecosystems. Marine parks mean monitoring occurs and can be an early warning system for impacts and changes in the 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 more able to withstand other pressures that are placed upon them.</p>
<p>24. What are the cultural value for traditional on water?</p>	<p>The cultural values will be determined through the management planning process.</p>
<p>25. How will state government resource the management of marine park? How can we ensure the resourcing will be enough?</p> <p>26. What is the budget for the entire consultation process?</p> <p>27. How much money has been put aside for science in this marine park?</p> <p>28. What &amp; How many jobs are going to be created? How is more money going to be generated for the Esperance community?</p> <p>29. How many jobs do you expect the marine park to create? Would locals have priority for those jobs?</p>	<p>DBCA and DPIRD have been funded to undertake the planning for the proposed marine park. Once 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. The number of jobs required to directly manage the marine park would be determined at that stage. Qualified individuals with local knowledge would be competitive in any recruitment process. Creation of additional jobs in tourism and other sectors, and associated economic benefits for the Esperance community, can only be quantified once the final area and design of the marine park is understood.</p>
<p>30. Is it boots on the ground science that has been done or desktop studies?</p>	<p>152 of the studies referenced in the Carijoa report were "boots on the ground science".</p>
<p>31. How does a marine park protect us against oil and gas?</p>	<p>The proposed marine park will be zoned using a combination of general use, recreation, special purpose and sanctuary zones. Industrial and extractive activities can be prohibited in particular areas of the proposed marine park through zoning if it is not compatible with the protection of the ecological and cultural values in the area.</p>

<p>32. If the marine park doesn't work and actually have a negative impact on our local economy, who will be held accountable for it? DBCA has you are the one created those zones for accountability?</p>	<p>The reservation of a marine park 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. This primary purpose of marine parks supports sustainable economic development. Marine parks are multiple use, allowing for on-going sustainable use.</p> <p>There have been various studies in Western Australia and worldwide on the economic and social benefits of marine protected areas. Marine protected areas and other spatial protection measures have been shown to deliver concrete benefits to blue economy sectors, (<a href="#">Pantzar et al. 2016</a>). The Ningaloo region, protected by a marine park, contributed \$110 million to the State economy in 2018 - 19. More than 90% of this was attributed to money spent by the hundreds of thousands of domestic and international tourists who visit Ningaloo each year. This tourism activity is largely contingent on the Reef's unique existence (<a href="#">DBCA and Deloitte Access Economics 2020</a>).</p>
<p>33. Can you please tell us more about that UWA study, who were the partners in that Which island were looked at?</p>	<p>Unsure which study this is referring to, however, the Carrijoa report identifies the majority of research that has occurred in the region.</p>
<p>34. We do not use dynamite fishing here, how is this information relevant??</p>	<p>This footage was from Tanzania, in a city with a smaller population than Perth. The purpose of the footage was to demonstrate what can happen when there is no management or very poor management. It highlights that Australia is fortunate to have a government committed to providing very good fisheries and conservation management to ensure the environment remains healthy for future generations.</p>
<p>35. You said it's relate to pressure and threats, is there is no pressure or threats in the front of Albany?? Is that eco system not worth protecting? Or is it because it is a labor seat?</p>	<p>Marine parks are supported by both major political parties.</p>
<p>36. How do you propose kids to see the benefits of a sanctuary zone here?</p>	<p>Sanctuary zones have the purpose of providing the highest level of protection to marine plants and animals. They generally include representative habitats and biodiversity, important areas for threatened and</p>

	protected species, and areas that include significant natural or cultural features. While children can continue to enjoy nature-based activities within sanctuary zones, such as wildlife watching, snorkelling and swimming, it is not the primary purpose of the zone.
37. How is the joint management finance? Are we going to have a set of extra fees to use our water and beaches?	The State Government will approve a budget for joint management. There will be no additional fees associated with a marine park to use the water or beaches.
38. What areas in the archipelago have been determined as exclusive native title rights areas?	To date, no areas in the Recherche Archipelago have been determined as exclusive possession native title.
39. If the majority of the community doesn't support the implementation of a marine park, what is your process to account for that?	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 <i>Conservation and Land Management Act 1984 (CALM Act)</i> .
40. Does traditional owners use to have boats? Did they went out on the islands?	Esperance Nyungar native title holders confirm that they do use boats and go out to the islands, including fishing, whenever they can.
41. If DPIRD provides DBCA with maps of fishing hotspots, wouldn't you already have line drawn on maps?	The zoning scheme will be designed in consultation with traditional owners and stakeholders using the best available science, cultural and social information. Information on fishing hotspot areas will be useful so the PSCMP can be carefully designed to minimise impacts on users, including recreational and commercial fishers.
42. How much money has been put aside by government for compensation of commercial fishers?	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 is understood, compensation can be determined by government.
43. How DPIRD has been educated community about the commonwealth marine park? Does DPIRD has enough resources to manage that?	DPIRD has an MOU with the Commonwealth to undertake fisheries management activities in Commonwealth marine parks.

<p>44. You ask us where we fish but every time we tell you what areas are important to us, you use that information against us. What guarantees or mechanisms have you put in place to prevent this reoccurring</p>	<p>Whilst the PSCMP will provide for ongoing sustainable use and tourism, there will be some areas of the marine park where activities such as recreational and commercial fishing may be limited to achieve biodiversity conservation outcomes. As part of the planning process, it is important we have a good understanding of how the region is currently used for tourism, recreational and other activities so the marine park can be carefully designed to minimise impacts on uses.</p> <p>Commercial and recreational fishers will have input into the process for the development of the PSCMP via a range of avenues, including Sector Advisory Groups and the Community Reference Committee. It is important that the process considers the best available information to examine fishing activities and impacts of any changes to access.</p>
<p>45. Can you give an example of who might qualify to be on the CRC? What skills set are you looking for?</p>	<p>Criteria for selection are on the website.</p>
<p>46. What do you mean by SAGs are self formed? How do you intend to interact with them?</p>	<p>The Community Engagement Strategy on the website details the role of the SAGs.</p>
<p>47. Are you going to link , commonwealth marine park and national land park with state marine park to create lock out zones where we won't be able to have any access?</p>	<p>National parks and Commonwealth and state government marine parks ensure long term protection of areas for conservation and recreation. These areas are set aside for current and future generations to enjoy. While some areas within these parks may have restricted uses to safeguard key values against particular pressures (i.e. sanctuary zones), majority of areas within these parks are accessible for general use.</p>
<p>48. It's pretty apparent there's fear of joint management and underlying racist thinking in this community... how are we meant to address that and respect each other and move forward together?</p>	<p>Joint management partners must make recommendations in accordance with the joint management plan, which can only include matters relevant to conserving and protecting the subject area.</p>
<p>49. Do SAGs need to be nominated by 29 Oct also?</p>	<p>No, but by mid-November.</p>

50. Do you control the land above the high water line?	Control of land is dependent on tenure. Generally, public lands above high-water mark are vested with traditional owners, DBCA or local government.
51. Will aboriginal people have to obey the same zones as the broader community  52. Just to confirm, the traditional aboriginal practices won't be effected by the implementation of a marine park?	Aboriginal people may practice customary activities within any zone of a marine park; customary activities do not include activities for commercial gain. Some restrictions may be required for health or safety reasons.
53. As there is a lack of knowledge on marine flora and fauna in the proposed sw bioregions - how will you look at increasing this knowledge to determine better decision making and provide data to community	If a marine park is implemented, it will increase the research and monitoring of marine flora and fauna in the area
54. If biodiversity and representative habitats are found to be similar across all proposed bioregions - do we need to marine park all the proposed regions?	The Integrated Marine and Coastal Regionalisation of Australia (IMCRA) is a spatial framework for classifying Australia's coasts and near shore marine environment into bioregions. It is derived from biological and physical data, including the distribution of demersal fishes, marine plants and invertebrates, sea floor geomorphology and sediments, and oceanographic data. These bioregions are used as the basis for the development of a NRSMPAs because each bioregion is unique. Examples of the ecosystems, habitats and marine life within the proposed marine park should be included within sanctuary zones that are comprehensive (e.g. cover all types), adequate (e.g. big enough) and representative (e.g. across their range).
55. Carijoa report acknowledged lack of flora and fauna distribution in Fitzgerald biosphere, cape Vancouver, stokes and twilight - how can you determine zoning if you don't have this data?	The Carijoa Report acknowledges the capacity for further research and discoveries in these areas as they are remote, unique and relatively understudied. Notwithstanding, various studies have been undertaken and based on this information the Carijoa Report summarises the key ecological values of these areas. For example, in Twilight Cove there is rhodolith habitat and extensive seagrass meadows, a Biologically Important Area for white sharks, Baxter Cliffs which are a haul out and breeding site for Australian sea lions, a Biologically Important Area for southern right whales and a Commonwealth recognised emerging aggregation area. There is sufficient information to confirm the ecological importance of these areas for inclusion in a marine park and to develop zoning. The exact zoning design

	will be determined through the planning and consultation process, considering all available information.
56. Carijoa report - 62% of research specifically related to Recherche Archipelago - do you feel this is a scientifically balanced encapsulation of data to make planning decisions on other proposed areas?	This still represents a large number of studies that have occurred in the other sub-regions and there is sufficient knowledge to support the implementation of a marine park.
57. What do you project would happen to stocking densities of fauna and flow on effects of flora on fishable areas surrounding these marine parks/sanctuary zones?	<p>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. Research on the effects of spill over shows that sanctuary zones are very good at protecting larger fish, which are fecund and produce more larvae, which then benefits fish stocks in surrounding general use areas.</p> <p>The displacement effect is a factor that needs to be considered in the planning process, as when one area is closed, the fishing effort may shift to another area. 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.</p>
58. Is the expanded areas of each region as suggested in the Carijoa report going to be instigated?	The Carijoa recommendations will be given consideration by the planning team and the Community Reference Committee.
59. Will the proposed marine park stop any future expansion/or new investment in aquaculture industry in the Esperance region	Currently there are no impacts to aquaculture in the study area. No boundaries have been drawn and development of an indicative boundary will occur as part of the consultation process with the community, commercial, recreational and charter fishing sectors, environmental groups, local government, traditional owners and tourism groups. Sustainable future aquaculture proposals would be considered compatible in general use zones.
60. When approximately will a plan be released with the proposed zones within the marine park?	A (draft) indicative management plan is expected to be released in late 2022 or early 2023.

61. In sanctuary zones, has the research shown: more fish therefore more marine mammals like seals therefore more sharks?	There is no evidence to show that seal numbers or large wide-ranging sharks increase in numbers due to sanctuary zones.
62. Esperance currently has an issue with sand washing away from Castletown Quays to Bandy Creek. Will the zoning requirements effect addressing this problem?	The marine park will exclude the Esperance Port area.
63. Given efforts to reduce GHG emissions to impact climate change would renewable technologies like offshore wind turbines & wave energy systems be allowed in the marine park	Future development proposals within the marine park would be subject to a comprehensive environmental impact assessment. Proposals which do not have a significant impact on ecological values and are compatible with the zoning scheme of the marine park may be considered appropriate.
64. I understood there has not been any native title claim over the marine areas, so why is there still a requirement to do an ILUA or joint management agreement with ETNTAC?	ETNTAC have procedural rights under the <i>Native Title Act 1993</i> as native title holders over the intertidal area within their determination boundaries, and potential native title claimants over offshore areas. In addition, the CALM Act provides that a management plan must conserve and protect the value of the land or waters to the culture and heritage of Aboriginal people.
65. What is the existing economic value of commercial fishing to the region? Please be specific in commenting on the \$ value to the region, not just total market value across the entire value chain.	DPIRD calculates the Gross Value of Production for commercial fisheries in WA for the purposes of determining access fees. The WA Fishing Industry Council (WAFIC) is the peak body for commercial fishing in WA and is best placed to comment on the broader economic value of commercial fishing to the region. An economic and social assessment will be undertaken when the draft zoning scheme has been developed. This will consider commercial and recreational fishing.
66. Recently Esperance got involved in the Fight the Bite campaign. Will a Marine Park help to keep industrial activities like offshore drilling out of the area?	The proposed marine park will be zoned using a combination of general use, recreation, special purpose and sanctuary zones. Industrial and extractive activities can be prohibited in particular areas of the proposed marine park through zoning if it is not compatible with the protection of the ecological and cultural values in the area.
67. In your experience is there a correlation between marine parks and increased tourism?	Yes.
68. The presentation appears to sell the Marine park as a foregone conclusion.(ie 'enjoy your marine park', 'seek approvals' etc. Is this the case?	No, before a marine park is created it needs to go through a thorough planning and public consultation process.