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Australian Government
Department of the Environment,
Water, Heritage and the Arts



South-west Marine Bioregional Planning

Update

Issue #3 (May 2009)

Welcome to the third in a series of stakeholder *Updates* for the South-west Marine Region. *Updates* are produced every 2-3 months when we have something new to tell you and will be available through the *What's New* navigation on the South-west Marine Bioregional Planning stakeholder page at www.environment.gov.au/coasts/mbp/south-west/stakeholders.html.

What progress has been made in marine bioregional planning in the South-west?

Recently, the department completed initial work toward the identification and design of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and is now preparing to gather further detail from both government and non-government stakeholders on specific *Areas for Further Assessment*.

Seven *Areas for Further Assessment* have been identified which include: Western Eyre, Great Australian Bight, Recherche, South-west Corner, Perth Canyon, Jurien and the Abrolhos.

These *Areas* are large regions encompassing examples of the range of biodiversity and ecosystems known from the South-west marine region on which we are seeking a finer scale of information. Whilst we are collecting some additional data from government management agencies we will also be asking for specific information from industry and interest groups on these areas.

Upcoming Stakeholder Meetings

Information sessions with sectoral executive officers highlighting where we are up to and detailing the *Areas for Further Assessment* and the key ecosystems within them are being held in Western and South Australia. Subsequent to these information sessions, meetings will be held with relevant sector members to discuss the *Areas for Further Assessment* in greater detail.

What's next?

We are looking to complete the draft South-west Marine Bioregional Plan including a draft proposal for a marine reserve network towards the end of 2009. Upon its release a period of statutory consultation will be conducted for the duration of about 60 days. At this stage, information sessions will be held to discuss the contents of the Draft Marine Bioregional Plan. Comments will also be welcomed at this interval (refer Fig 1).

Further comments or information can be obtained by emailing the South-west Team at SW_marine_plan@environment.gov.au

The South-west Marine Bioregional Plan is prepared under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 by the Australian Government Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts and it will apply to all Commonwealth Waters of the South-west Marine Region. More information can be found at

Figure 1

