

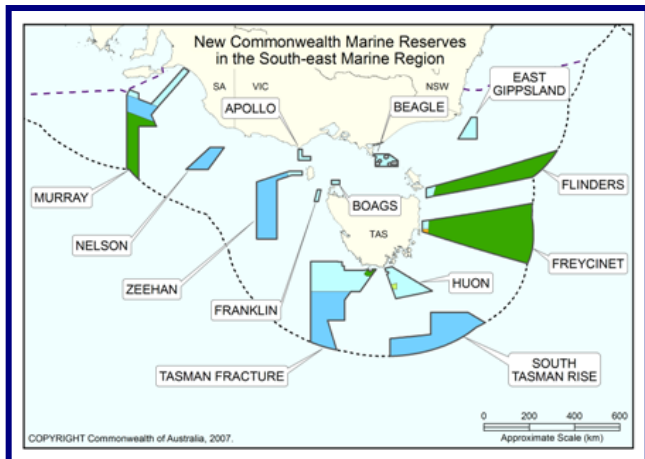


November 2007 - Number 2

## SOUTH-EAST COMMONWEALTH MARINE RESERVE NETWORK NOW IN EFFECT

### Have you registered for an approval?

The South-east Commonwealth Marine Reserve Network (SE CMR's) came into effect on 3 September 2007. Management of the network is based on a series of zones that either allow for, or prohibit certain activities. While some commercial fishing methods are allowed in some zones of the reserves, demersal trawl, Danish seine, scallop dredge and gillnetting deeper than 183 metres are not allowed in any of the reserves.



Interim management arrangements have been put in place to allow users to register for an approval to continue to conduct their business within reserves where these uses can occur.

This means that **if you wish to commercially fish** in areas within the reserves where fishing is permitted, **or transit** through any reserves, **you must be registered** under an approval from the Director of National Parks. Active participation in the registration/approvals process by members of the fishing industry, will allow the Department of the Environment and Water Resources (DEW) to focus its compliance effort in areas other than where fishing operations are being conducted consistent with the law.

The approval system has been designed to minimise the administrative burden on fishing business operating in the reserves. To ensure the smooth operation of the system and your business it's important that you register for an approval as soon as possible, if you have not already done so.

### How do I register for an approval?

If you wish to fish or transit the SE CMR's you require an approval. For further information, or to request a Commercial Fishers User Guide and registration form, please contact the South-east Region Manager on (02) 6274 1111. Alternatively, visit our website and register online at: [www.environment.gov.au/coasts/mpa/publications/southeast-commercial-fishing-registration.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/coasts/mpa/publications/southeast-commercial-fishing-registration.html).

Registration is the responsibility of the **concession holder**. If you lease a concession/licence you should contact the owner of the concession and advise them to register under the approval. If the owner of the concession does not register and the lessee is found to be operating in, or transiting the reserves, they may be in breach of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act). There are no fees or charges associated with registration.

### Tips for using the online registration system

Using the online system is the fastest way to register for an approval however before logging on it is advisable to have the following information available:

- your Australian Business Number (ABN);
- the name of the agency responsible for providing the concession;
- the name of the fishery or fisheries under which concessions are held; and
- the number of each concession.

For assistance with the online system please contact the South-east Region Manager on (02) 6274 1111.



Image courtesy CSIRO

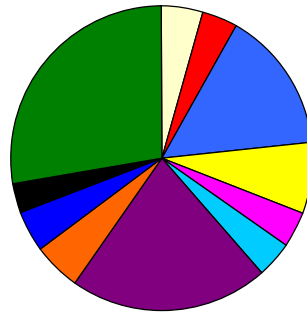
## SOME REGISTRATION AND APPROVAL STATISTICS

On 5 July 2007, DEW distributed approximately 2300 letters requesting commercial fishers to express an interest in registering for an approval to operate in the SE CMR's. Following this DEW distributed 501

Commercial Fisheries User Guides. To date, 191 confirmation certificates have been issued. The graphs below show a break down of the 191 registrations by fishery and by agency.

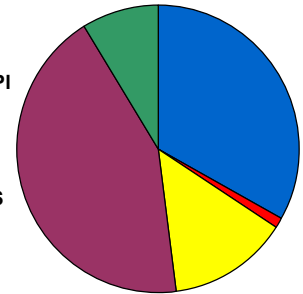
### Highest Number of Registrations - Top 10 Fisheries

- Commonwealth Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop
- South Australian Southern Zone Rock Lobster
- SESS - Commonwealth Gillnet Hook and Trap Sector
- SESS - Commonwealth Trawl Sector
- Tasmanian Commercial Scalefish B
- Tasmanian Giant Crab
- Tasmanian Rock Lobster
- Tasmanian Scallop
- Victorian Scallop
- Victorian Western Zone Southern Rock Lobster
- Other



### Registrations by Agency <sup>1</sup>

- AFMA
- NSW DPI
- DPI VIC
- DPI TAS
- PIRSA



## DEVELOPING A MANAGEMENT PLAN

### 'Have your say' coming soon

Management plans are required by the EPBC Act to provide for the protection and conservation of a Reserve. They must set out how the Reserve is to be managed, what activities will be allowed within the Reserve and how they must be carried on.

The management planning process for the SE CMR's will commence soon. The Director of National Parks will publish an invitation for the public to comment on the proposal to draft a new management plan.

All approval holders will receive notification of the public comment period. Stakeholder engagement will be key to the success of the management plan outcomes. It is expected the first period of public consultation will begin in January 2008.



Image courtesy MLSSA

AFMA – Australian Fisheries Management Authority  
DPI – Department of Primary Industries  
PIRSA - South Australian Primary Industries and Resources

## INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

DEW is very mindful of the need to gather and manage information in a way that both protects commercial-in-confidence elements of the data collected, and does not impact on fishing operations through a duplication of information gathering processes. The confidential nature of this information means that protocols and systems will be established to ensure that information will only be used for the described purpose.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is currently being drafted by DEW and AFMA to share information where consent has been given by a concession holder through the approvals registration process in a way that protects the security of the data. Similar arrangements will be entered into with relevant state agencies.

Further to this DEW will be establishing an internal security clearance system that only gives approved officers access to this information. DEW will continue to consult with representatives of the different fisheries in order to satisfy industry needs.

*For further information please contact:*

**South-east Region Manager  
Marine Protected Areas Management (South)  
Department of the Environment and Water  
Resources  
GPO Box 787  
Canberra ACT 2601  
mpa@environment.gov.au  
Telephone: (02) 6274 1111**

**Or visit our website:  
[www.environment.gov.au/coasts/mpa/index.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/coasts/mpa/index.html)**