



Australian Government

Department of the Environment and Heritage

Oceans Action Bulletin

An Update from the Marine Division (DEH)

8 July 2005

This Bulletin updates you on recent progress in implementing Australia's Oceans Policy and regional marine planning. Please forward to any interested parties. For further information or to unsubscribe from this Bulletin, please email samantha.meyer@oceans.gov.au

New Head for Marine Division

The Department of the Environment and Heritage (DEH) welcomes Donna Petrachenko, who has been appointed First Assistant Secretary of the Marine Division.



Professor Petrachenko has been working within DEH on secondment from the Canadian Public Service since 2003. Ms Petrachenko has held senior positions in Fisheries and Oceans Canada for a number of years. Her background includes appointments at senior level in Canadian marine-based organisations and her experience includes national parks management – marine and terrestrial - and fisheries management.

Ms Petrachenko's research interests are marine biodiversity conservation; Oceans law, policy, and governance; integrated marine and coastal planning; and sustainable fisheries management.

Ms Petrachenko replaces Max Kitchell, who took on the position when the Marine Division was created in October last year.

As of 1 July, the Marine Division comprises the National Oceans Office (headed by Ian Cresswell), the Marine Conservation Branch (headed by Stephen Oxley) and the Marine Environment Branch (headed by Andrew McNee).

More information about the Division and its functions can be found at www.deh.gov.au/md/

Presentation of Meredith Hall Award

In one of his last duties as head of the DEH Marine Division, Max Kitchell presented the Meredith Hall Award to Barbara Musso, who heads regional marine planning activity in Australia's southern waters.

Meredith Hall headed the planning team that produced Australia's first regional marine plan – the South-east Regional Marine Plan. She died last year, shortly

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before the release of the Plan. The Meredith Hall Award is presented annually, to the staff member who accomplishes the most significant achievement towards meeting the goals of the National Oceans Office.



In presenting this year's Award, Mr Kitchell praised the intellectual contribution Barbara makes to the Office, and the vitality she brings to her work and to her personal dealings.

Max Kitchell and Barbara Musso with the Award

Darwin alive with Marine Conferences

The Top End will be teeming with marine specialists and scientists over the next week, with national marine-focused conferences and workshops taking place.

The Australian Marine Sciences Association (AMSA) will hold its annual national conference and, at the same time, the Australian Society for Fish Biology (ASFB) will host its workshop and conference. As part of the AMSA conference, the Australian Committee of the international Census of Marine Life will hold a workshop to decide where Australia's next major research voyage will be held to improve our understanding of marine biodiversity.

The 2005 AMSA conference (11–13 July) will explore the themes of marine biodiversity, biodiscovery and biosecurity. A final program is available online at www.amsa.asn.au/conference/program

The annual conference of the ASFB, on July 14-15, includes a workshop on "Monitoring Fish Stocks and Aquatic Ecosystems". The program for the ASFB workshop and conference is available at www.territorylive.com/asfb2005/home

The DEH is a major sponsor of all these events. Late registrations are being accepted for both conferences. For more information, visit the conference websites.

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First International Congress on Marine Protected Areas

The world's first International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC1) will be held in Geelong from 23-27 October 2005. The Department of the Environment and Heritage (DEH) is playing a key role in IMPAC1. DEH is a major sponsor of the congress, and is also assisting with congress organisation and administration.



IMPAC1 was developed to progress resolutions arising from the IUCN 5th World Congress on Protected Areas held in Durban, South Africa in 2003 and to address the World Commission on Protected Areas Marine goal and primary themes. The World Congress on Protected Areas meets every 10 years to set the global agenda for protected areas.

IMPAC1 has been designed to be the first of an ongoing series of regular global conferences providing a forum for continuous improvement in methods of establishing and managing marine protected areas. The congress aims to involve government agencies, communities, non-government organisations, research organisations and people whose businesses are associated with MPAs.

The objectives of IMPAC1 are to:

- embrace the entire global range of marine protected areas, including but not limited to in-shore (integrated coastal zone management), reef, deep water, high seas and remote locations;
- develop a blueprint for partnerships between MPA managers, fisheries managers, management agencies, Indigenous peoples, local communities and industries reliant on marine resources to ensure that marine ecosystems are sustained into the future;
- provide examples or models of best practice approaches for biodiversity and ecological processes through the management of MPAs; and
- address important or emerging issues affecting or likely to affect the future existence, values qualities and effectiveness of MPAs and to explore innovative approaches and possible solutions to enable effective management of these issues.

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Five key themes have been selected:

1. Developing Networks - Developing comprehensive & representative MPA networks
2. Sustainability/Resilience - Ensuring sustainability/maximising resilience
3. Ecosystem Processes - Understanding ecosystem structure and processes
4. Management Effectiveness - Ensuring management effectiveness of MPAs
5. Shared Stewardship - Partnerships and benefits

Indigenous, social and economic, fisheries, and regional issues have also been identified for consideration within each of the themes.

Under Australia's Oceans Policy, a national representative system of MPAs (NRSMPA) is being implemented through regional marine planning. The initial focus for the NRSMPA in Commonwealth waters has been the South-east Marine Region. More information about MPAs in Commonwealth waters is available at www.deh.gov.au/coasts/mpa.

The provisional IMPAC1 program of 160 speakers has been finalised and includes presentations from 38 countries. Early bird registration for IMPAC closes on 10 July. For more information, visit the congress website www.impacongress.org/.

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