

**Conservation Council  
of South Australia Inc**  
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30<sup>th</sup> March 2009

via email:  
[emmett.jon@saugov.sa.gov.au](mailto:emmett.jon@saugov.sa.gov.au)

**Re: Marine parks in South Australia**

Dear Jon,

The **Conservation Council of SA (CCSA)** is South Australia's peak environmental organization and represents 55 environmental organizations. CCSA welcomes the opportunity to provide the following comments relating to the **Marine Parks** in South Australia.

CCSA fully supports the principle of Marine Parks and is pleased to see the process get underway.

CCSA is gratified to see that the outer boundaries have, where possible, been located adjacent to existing terrestrial parks and have included significant island groups, particularly around the **Eyre Peninsula** where the endangered Australian Sea Lion has numerous colonies. CCSA is also pleased that the top ends of both gulfs, the **Head of the Bight**, the **Fleurieu Peninsula** and the **Murray Mouth** areas are also included.

This is tempered however by concerns that aquaculture in particular will be allowed to continue in many of these Marine Parks, although we understand that it may be prohibitively expensive to compensate aquaculture ventures.

Whilst we are pleased to see the extent of the outer boundaries, CCSA keenly awaits the release of the zoning boundaries, as we are keen to support and promote large **Sanctuary** and **Restricted Access Zones**. However, our concern remains that these will not be sufficiently large enough to have an effective impact for conservation. Scientific research is increasingly showing that low- or no-impact areas of Marine Parks need to be larger, rather than smaller, to have positive conservation outcomes, so we would like to flag this as a concern for the zoning process.

The **Australian Marine Sciences Association (AMSA)** has developed a position statement on marine protected areas that recommends 'a minimum target of 10% of all habitat types under full no-take protection'. They also recommend that such no-take zones should be situated within larger multiple use protected areas, as the State Government is planning to do. However, CCSA would like to point out that AMSA also state that 'a figure of 10% under no-take protection would slow, but not prevent loss of biodiversity'. The clear implication therefore is that no-take zones must be larger than 10% for improved conservation outcomes.

CCSA recommends a minimum of 20% (as developed at the **Johannesburg Sustainable Development Conference**) of no-take protection in each individual reserve, with research based effective placement of no-take areas.

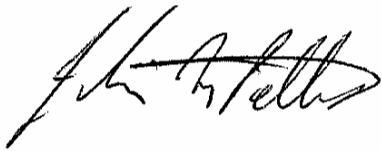
The AMSA position statement goes on to state that the development of marine parks should be 'accompanied by a net reduction in fishing effort for affected fisheries which are at or near full exploitation'. CCSA supports this position.

CCSA would further like to recommend that if **Restricted Access Zones** are largely for research purposes, perhaps they should be renamed '**Marine Research Zones**' and have specific marine research programs, with funding, attached to each one. This could promote support and understanding from the wider community, and prevent antagonism caused by exclusion from these zones.

CCSA believes it is essential that adequate resources must be allocated within management plans to provide for ongoing long term scientific monitoring, including baseline data and research and compliance of Marine Park areas.

CCSA is disappointed that the State Government's Marine Parks campaign has been so actively aimed at recreational fishers, although we can understand the reasoning behind it. It is a shame that the beauty, diversity and significance of the South Australian marine environment have not been as vigorously promoted as something worth protecting. This would have helped to balance the campaign aimed at recreational fishers.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie Pettett', written in a cursive style.

**Julie Pettett**  
CEO CCSA