

Why marine parks?

The more than 5000 marine protected areas around the world are designed to achieve several different goals including: fish-stock sustainability, biodiversity conservation, increased tourism and species-specific protection.

In South Australia, the network of 19 new multiple-use marine parks is being designed specifically to conserve biodiversity. This means the parks will aim to protect the full range of plant, fish and other animal species that call South Australian waters home.

In order to achieve this goal the parks will include examples of all known South Australian marine habitats within 'no-take' Sanctuary Zones. Consideration also needs to be given to protecting habitats in a range of water depths and temperature variations.

Following the release of the marine parks' outer boundaries last year, the South Australian Government is working with coastal communities to develop management plans with zoning arrangements for each of the parks.

The marine parks network will also help protect a wide range of species including:

- More than 720 fish, including tropical and cold water species.
- 80% of the world's total population of Australian sea lions, including the largest known breeding colony at Dangerous Reef.
- More than 70 species of seabirds including little penguins, white-bellied sea eagles and glossy ibis.

- More than 1,200 species of marine algae.

To inform the design of the marine parks and to help ensure adequate amounts of all habitats are included, much of South Australia's marine environment has been mapped by a team of marine scientists.



Department for Environment and Heritage diver conducting a biodiversity survey using a video camera.

The scientists, with support from the South Australian Research and Development Institute, (SARDI) and several local universities, have been using various methods to accurately map benthic habitats and gain an understanding of fish communities.

Baited remote underwater videos along with divers conducting biodiversity surveys have, in some areas, provided a very detailed picture of the variety and abundance of marine life.

The mapping work has also involved the use of sophisticated multi-beam sonar technology, video cameras as well as underwater remotely operated vehicles.

For more information about South Australia's marine parks program phone 1800 006 120 or go to www.marineparks.sa.gov.au

Key Points

South Australian multiple-use marine parks aim to:

- conserve biodiversity; and
- protect the environment and a range of species.

Scientists have mapped much of South Australian marine environment to provide information that assists in the design of marine parks.

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Acknowledgments

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