

Marine parks information at Coffin Bay

Those interested in South Australia's marine parks are invited to learn about the marine parks process at an information session in Coffin Bay next week.

Port Lincoln Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH) staff have been invited by the Friends of Coffin Bay National Park to share marine parks information and answer questions at the Coffin Bay Community Hall on Wednesday 18 June.

The South Australian Government is creating 19 marine parks in State waters by 2010.

The parks will protect representative examples of marine habitats along South Australia's 5600 kilometres of coastline for current and future generations to enjoy.

Several marine parks will be located around the Eyre Peninsula.

DEH's Senior Community Engagement Officer, Coast and Marine Conservation, Simon Clark, said the information session provides a great opportunity for residents and visitors to learn about marine parks.

"We want people to understand that marine parks will be designed to maximise conservation outcomes while allowing for recreational and commercial uses," Mr Clark said.

"Marine parks are a community asset so it is important that everyone gets involved in the marine parks process.

"To make sure this happens, we want as much community involvement in the planning phase as possible.

"It's my role to help get people ready for the release of the marine parks outer boundaries later this year and the following consultation period.

All marine parks management plans and zoning will be completed by the end of 2010, following extensive community consultation.

The marine parks information session will be held at 7pm on Wednesday 18 June at the Coffin Bay Community Hall, The Esplanade, Coffin Bay.

All are welcome to attend.

For more information, contact DEH's Coast and Marine Conservation Branch on (08) 8124 4900 or visit

www.environment.sa.gov.au/coasts/marineparks.html.

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