

New marine parks newsletter

More than 2,500 people have been sent the first edition of a new quarterly newsletter, updating them about the progress of South Australia's marine parks program.

The update from the Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH) comes just months prior to the release of the proposed marine park outer boundaries for public consultation.

The newsletter includes details about community engagement to date, the new Minister for Environment and Conservation, the science behind marine parks, an introduction to the Marine Parks Council of South Australia and answers to frequently asked questions.

The marine parks community engagement team has this year spoken to more than 6,000 people from all over the State about the progress of the program.

The newsletter was posted and emailed to those who have expressed an interest in being kept up to date with the latest marine parks news.

DEH marine parks manager Chris Thomas said the release of outer boundaries later this year will not change the way the marine environment is used.

"The declaration of marine park boundaries will not affect the way people currently enjoy the marine environment, as they will not include the zoning arrangements," he said.

"These will be determined over the next couple of years in consultation with local communities and other stakeholders including industry groups and recreational fishers.

"After this extensive consultation, marine parks zoning arrangements will come into effect in 2011 providing for conservation and a range of activities including fishing and boating.

"DEH's new newsletter provides a great opportunity for the marine parks team to keep the community up to date with the latest marine parks news and inform people about the roll-out of the parks."

South Australia's marine parks program will help protect examples of all habitats found in the State's waters for future generations to use and enjoy.

For more information about caring for the marine environment, contact DEH's Coast and Marine Conservation Branch on (08) 8124 4900 or visit www.marineparks.sa.gov.au.

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