

Marine parks information on Cuttlefish Coast

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

Port Lincoln Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH) staff will be sharing marine parks information and answering questions at the Whyalla Sport Fishing Club on Wednesday 4 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 in the Spencer Gulf.

DEH's Senior Community Engagement Officer, Coast and Marine Conservation, Simon Clark, said the information session provided 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 values 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.

"Similar sessions were recently held during the Snapper Fishing Competition, Fishy Fringe Festival and Cultana Jenkins Shack Owners meeting," Mr Clark said.

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 7.30 pm on Wednesday 4 June at the Whyalla Sport Fishing Club, Marina Road.

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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