

## Marine parks roadshow a hit

The Department for Environment and Heritage's (DEH) Upper Spencer Gulf marine parks roadshow recently visited Port Pirie, Port Germein and Port Augusta.

The South Australian Government is creating 19 marine parks in state waters by 2010 and several marine parks will be located in the Spencer Gulf.

The aim of the road show was to listen to feedback from coastal communities and give people an opportunity to ask questions about the marine parks program.

DEH community engagement officer Andrew Burnell said the road show attracted about 200 locals, keen to find out the latest marine parks information.

"People had two main questions – where will the marine parks be and can we still fish in marine parks?"

"People were pleased to hear that fishing would still be allowed within marine parks and that the outer boundaries of the parks would be released for public comment in the second half of this year," he said.

DEH road show staff also noticed that people with children were quite supportive of the concept of marine parks, which are designed to help preserve representative samples of marine habitats for current and future generations.

"The notion of protecting the marine environment for the use and enjoyment of our children and their children resonated most with parents and grandparents, particularly those who had seen first-hand the changes to our marine environment over time.

"Many of those who came to discuss marine parks with us were keen to be added to the marine parks mailing list and receive the latest information about the program," Mr Burnell said.

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](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/coasts/marineparks.html)

For photographs of Mr Burnell talking to locals in Port Pirie, Port Augusta or Port Germein please contact Angela Gray on 8124 4909 or email [Gray.Angela@saugov.sa.gov.au](mailto:Gray.Angela@saugov.sa.gov.au).

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