

Marine parks information at Cowell

Interest in South Australia's planned marine parks has prompted the Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH) to return to Cowell, to further discuss the marine parks process with the local community.

Port Lincoln DEH staff will share the latest marine parks information and answer questions near the Cowell Boat Ramp and Lions Park between 9:00am and 6:00pm on Wednesday, 23 April. All are welcome to attend.

DEH's Senior Project Officer (West), Coast and Marine Conservation, Simon Clark, said the visit was requested by the Cowell Chamber of Commerce and was a great opportunity for locals and visitors to find out the latest marine parks information.

"The aim of the session is to make contact with as many fishers, residents and regular visitors as we possibly can to share the current information about marine parks," Mr Clark said.

"All community members with an interest in the marine environment are encouraged to attend the session to discuss the most up-to-date information about marine parks.

"We want to ensure the new marine parks are areas of marine conservation and sustainable use that local communities are proud of and feel they 'own'.

"To do this we want as much community involvement in the planning phase as possible," Mr Clark said.

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

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

Outer boundaries of marine parks will be released for public comment later this year and specific zones within these parks will be developed through extensive public consultation by the end of 2010.

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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