

Marine threats under the microscope

Threats to the marine environment will be under the microscope next week when more than 200 students from primary schools all over Adelaide learn about protecting the ocean.

The Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH) is using World Environment Day (Thursday 5 June) to mark a week of marine-related activities at the South Australian Museum.

School students who take part in the activities will learn about threats to the marine environment including pollution, over fishing, climate change and invasive species.

Measures which contribute to protecting the marine environment will be covered including sustainable fishing practices, stowing rubbish appropriately, and reducing carbon emissions to combat climate change.

DEH Coast and Marine Conservation Branch Acting Manager Chris Thomas said the students will complete several activity stations with the focus on practical advice and learning while having fun.

"South Australia's marine environment supports a range of lifestyles and livelihoods which need to be taken care of now and into the future," Mr Thomas said.

"Educating children about appropriate care for the marine environment is the key to ensuring future generations will be well equipped to look after the ocean."

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

"These parks will help to protect the marine environment and give it a better chance to thrive for the benefit of future generations," Mr Thomas said.

The 19 marine park outer boundaries will be released for public comment later this year.

Students from Years 4 to 7 will take part in the marine threats workshops at the South Australian Museum on Monday and Friday of next week.

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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