



SCIENTIFIC WORKING GROUP COMMUNIQUÉ – MEETING No. 56 13 November 2012

The following members were present at the Scientific Working Group (SWG) meeting held on 13 November 2012: Peter Fairweather (chair), Luciano Beheregaray, Anthony Cheshire, Bronwyn Gillanders, Martine Kinloch, Hugh Kirkman, Scoresby Shepherd and Hazel Vandeleur. Apologies were received from Sean Connell, Milena Fernandes, Charlie Huveneers and Luciana Moller.

The SWG wishes to advise the Minister of the following key outcomes:

- The SWG reaffirmed the absolute necessity of having an effective Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (MER) framework for the marine parks in place as soon as possible, with assessments being properly resourced and happening in a timely manner, so that our enhanced understanding of marine park outcomes in the South Australian setting is most useful for any review in the future;
 - The SWG discussed at length how research in South Australian marine parks could be facilitated by streamlining processes for gaining permits, especially to remove unreasonable barriers to researchers and to ensure that research is done to overcome any present lack of knowledge in specific marine environments within South Australia, not only inside marine park boundaries but also more broadly. The SWG undertook to draft specific advice in this regard to the Minister at its December meeting;
 - The SWG was updated by the Department regarding planning for monitoring subtidal reef habitats, focussing upon field methodology, a core program involving some 43 reefs across the marine parks network, with planned comparisons inside versus outside sanctuary zones. Issues of safety, access, interpretation and other issues were discussed. Specific research projects examining terms of sanctuary zone sizes, proximity to zone edges, other flagship species or features and other aspects were flagged for further consideration. Work shall continue upon the interpretation model for reefs, incorporating both forcing functions and threats, as well as considering other taxa of biota to include;
 - The SWG received a briefing on social issues and indicators arising from the regional impacts statements initially but expanding into assessment of the community's capacity to adapt to change; and
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- Consideration by the SWG of MER planning involving habitats such as seagrasses, mangrove forests and saltmarshes was deferred to the next meeting.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'P. Fairweather', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Prof. Peter Fairweather
Chair, Scientific Working Group