

Marine parks permits for scientific research

Responsible scientific research in South Australia's marine parks is supported and encouraged by the South Australian Government. Research increases our understanding of the marine environment and can contribute to the public good through building on society's knowledge base.

When will I need a scientific research permit?

You will need a research permit if you are conducting methodical investigation or scientific study that is organised and conducted for commercial or professional purposes in marine park sanctuary zones. This includes geological research and non-invasive activities such as mapping or remote observations.

You may also need a permit if your research is conducted in marine park habitat protection zones if the research breaches any provisions of the Marine Parks (Zoning) Regulations 2012, particularly if the proposed activity involves removal or harm to habitat forming aquatic plants, algae or sessile animals.

This requirement applies to members of the public, groups, institutions and all government agencies, including the Department for Environment and Water (DEW).

A marine parks permit is not required for research authorised under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* or the *Wilderness Protection Act 1992*. These activities will be considered as part of internal Government referral processes.

A separate permit application is also not required for research authorised under the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* as s. 115 Exemptions or as undertaken by authorised scientific observers. Consideration of these activities will be made through internal Government referral processes.

The issuing of permits will help to manage research to achieve the best outcomes for researchers and the environment by:

- ensuring the most appropriate sites are selected
- managing potentially conflicting research activities
- providing a means of considering the cumulative impacts of research and all other activities

- providing a means of informing researchers of relevant research opportunities
- informing on-going adaptive marine parks management

How do I get a permit?

Applications for research permits can be made using the form available at:

www.environment.sa.gov.au/marineparks/permits.

Your application should demonstrate that your research addresses some general principles:

- the public benefit of the project
- the project is an exercise that is part of a recognised course for education in science
- the need for the activity to take place in the protected location rather than in a non-protected location
- the project aims and methodology follow accepted scientific principles
- the results of the research are fully documented and made publicly available or, if subject to commercial confidentiality agreements, making publicly available aspects of the research deemed not to breach that confidentiality.

Priority will be given to research proposals which support achievement of the objects of marine park management plans.

To maximise the use of resources and research outcomes, it is important for marine parks research to align with a broader context of research activity, including:

- [Forging the Links 2013-2015](#): outlines the key requirements and priorities for the marine parks Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (MER) Program
- marine park management plans: where possible we encourage research in marine parks sanctuary zones that supports achievement of the objectives of marine park management plans

- marine research priorities generally: opportunities may exist to support national research priorities

Assessment of applications is based on:

- consistency with marine park management plan(s), the conservation values of the proposed location and the marine parks MER Program
- importance of, and justification for, the research including the necessity for the research to be undertaken in the specified location
- experience of the applicant and the research institution
- potential environmental impact

Additional Permits, approvals or licences may be required as part of a research project (such as animal ethics approvals). It is your responsibility to obtain these additional authorities.

What will a permit cost?

Application fees are payable for research permits. Details about fee payment are available on the [permit application form](#).

What is the term for permits?

Permits will be issued for a maximum of 12 months, unless otherwise agreed.

What are my responsibilities?

It is your responsibility to comply with any law or regulation applicable to your research activity or the area in which the research is undertaken.

Every permit will be issued with conditions. It is your responsibility to ensure that these conditions are met. Breaches of any conditions may result in cancellation of the permit and termination of the research activity in the marine park.

You will be required to submit data and reports and manage collected specimens in accordance with the conditions of the permit and/or DEW's data and collection protocols.

More information

If you have a question, contact:

E: DEW.MarineParksPermits@sa.gov.au

www.environment.sa.gov.au