



SCIENTIFIC WORKING GROUP COMMUNIQUÉ – MEETING No. 42 - 10 May 2011

The following members were present at the Scientific Working Group (SWG) meeting held 10 May 2011: Anthony Cheshire (Chair), Charlie Huveneers, Luciano Moller, Bronwyn Gillanders, Peter Fairweather, Hugh Kirkman, Hazel Vandeleur, Scoresby Shepherd and Luciano Beheregary. Martine Kinloch and Sean Connell are on a leave of absence as they are both overseas for several months.

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

1. The SWG received a presentation from DENR Marine Scientist David Miller on the capabilities of the technical team within the Marine Parks Program. The SWG noted the important contribution of the benthic mapping capability to building our knowledge of coastal marine environments. Furthermore, given the visual nature of the bathymetric mapping and underwater video footage the SWG would strongly recommend the use of information from this leading capability as a way of illustrating to the community the type of scientific knowledge that is used to underpin the marine parks program.

The SWG note that the lead up to the formal consultation on the zoning and management plans would be an ideal time to communicate the science behind the program.

2. The SWG continued discussions about a marine parks monitoring, evaluation and reporting (MER) program. The SWG agreed that a MER program:
 - Is a fundamental requirement if we are to effectively demonstrate the performance of the parks.
 - Would provide critical information needed to fulfil the legal obligation to review the management plans within 10 years.
 - Provides a tool for communicating the benefits of the program to the public, not just about biodiversity conservation but also in a broader context relating to research, education, tourism and related benefits to fisheries and aquaculture resources.
 - Provides a tool for better understanding the effects of climate change, leading to better management of the wider marine environment and its resources.
 - Fulfils a moral obligation to the community to report on the ecological effects of implementing the parks.

The SWG reiterated its view that the Government needs to commit financial resources to support the establishment and implementation of a MER program for the marine parks network.

3. DENR Principal Policy Officer Angus Mitchell updated the SWG on the current review of South Australia's Strategic Plan and this included discussion about the need for an updated marine parks target. The SWG considered the new target and concluded that a SASP target is needed to ensure a focus on the development of effective management plans for all parks and this should include a commitment to a
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monitoring, evaluation and reporting program. This will ensure that Government continues to meet its responsibilities under the Marine Parks Act 2007.

4. The SWG discussed the shortlist of possible candidates to fill the current vacancy on the group. The SWG noted that its 'Terms of Reference' states that "*The Scientific Working Group consists of up to twelve members appointed by the Minister, and includes at least one of the persons with qualifications or experience in a field of science relevant to the marine environment appointed to the Marine Parks Council of South Australia*". The SWG would like to advise the Minister that a member of the SWG could be appointed to the Marine Parks Council, given the membership of the next term of the Council is currently under review.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony Cheshire". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Prof. Anthony Cheshire

Chair, Scientific Working Group for Marine Protected Areas and Marine Planning
