



SCIENTIFIC WORKING GROUP COMMUNIQUÉ – MEETING No. 41 - 12 APRIL 2011

The following members were present at the Scientific Working Group (SWG) meeting held 12 April 2011: Peter Fairweather (acting Chair), Hugh Kirkman, Martine Kinloch, Hazel Vandeleur, Scoresby Shepherd and Luciano Beheregary. Anthony Cheshire, Charlie Huveneers, Luciano Moller, Bronwyn Gillanders and Sean Connell were apologies for the meeting.

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

1. SWG discussed replacing a resigned member and three names were decided upon for an informal approach from the Department to gauge whether they would be interested. They are all well-credentialed, experienced and female members of the marine scientific community within South Australia.
2. SWG moved toward finalising its advice about how the Resilience and Vulnerability design principle can be used in zoning marine parks. A series of Habitat Vulnerability background papers, written mainly by SWG members, has been compiled and this should become a DENR publication to support this advice.
3. SWG was briefed on the challenges ahead in providing impact statements to accompany draft management plans for all 19 marine parks. Concerns about constraints of timing and funding were discussed.
4. A framework for Monitoring, Evaluating and Reporting upon the performance of marine parks over the first decade of their existence was advanced. How this MER framework will fit into other marine monitoring within SA was discussed, as were some of the critical features that must be included.
5. A 17-page response to the criticisms by Professor Robert Kearney of the DENR fact sheet on benefits of marine parks was finalised and should be included with this Communiqué for the Minister's use (refer Attachment).
6. SWG was also updated about recent developments in DENR's workplan, public meetings about the program and other ongoing issues to do with SARSMPA.

Prof. Peter Fairweather
Acting Chair, Scientific Working Group for Marine Protected Areas and Marine Planning
