



## Community consultation starts for Jervis Bay Marine Park

A three-and-a-half month public consultation program starts on Friday 28 May seeking community views about proposed changes to the Jervis Bay Marine Park zoning plan.

Marine Parks Authority member and head of NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, Sally Barnes encouraged the community to take part in the process to ensure government can consider all views before making a final decision.

“We will continue to manage Jervis Bay Marine Park based on the best available science and in response to how the community wants to use the park,” Ms Barnes said.

“That’s why we have a detailed review and consultation process in place for the zoning plan, which has been in place since 2002.”

Ms Barnes said the consultation would give the community an opportunity to see:

- The full report and recommendations prepared by the Marine Parks Authority following the 18 month review process
- The recommendations and changes proposed by the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, and the Minister for Primary Industries which are now on exhibition
- Maps and other documentation outlining the proposed changes – including updated seabed habitat maps.

This information is being released now in advance of public exhibition of the regulation currently being drafted which will set out the zoning changes in more detailed regulatory terms. This regulation will be released in June for a full three month public consultation period.

“In order to maximize the opportunity for the community to understand and have its say about the proposed changes, we’re releasing this public information package now in advance of the regulation. We want to hear what the community and industry think of the proposals and are encouraging people to make a submission after considering all of the information available, including the regulation that will be released in coming weeks.”

Ms Barnes said under the key proposed changes:

- Sanctuary zones would remain at 20% of the park
- Habitat protection zones would increase from 72% to 74% of the park
- General use zones would decrease from 8% to 6% of the park
- Special purpose zones would remain at 0.2% of the park.

Proposed changes reflect submissions from the community to the review process, such as improvements to boating access at Hare Bay, prohibiting trawling in the park, and improved public safety and amenity at Honeymoon Bay and Hyams Beach through restrictions on motorized vessels.

**Media Contact: Tonia Liosatos**  
**Mobile: 0418 820 504**  
**After Hours: 02 9995 5347**

Visit us on the web:  
[www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au)

Ms Barnes said, importantly, scientific research conducted in the Jervis Bay Marine Park since the park was first established has also contributed to the information used to underpin the proposed zoning changes.

“While the total area of sanctuary zone remains at 20% and there is no proposed increase in the area, sanctuary zone boundaries are proposed to be adjusted to reflect new information discovered about important reef habitat.”

Under the existing zoning plan only 8% of mapped intermediate reef habitat (rocky reefs between 20 and 60 m water depth) is protected in sanctuary zones.

New high resolution swath mapping has shown different habitat found in intermediate reef, which supports different flora and fauna to shallow reef.

Similarly research has shown significant differences between intermediate reefs in Jervis Bay and Batemans marine parks.

To ensure this important reef habitat and associated biodiversity is properly protected into the future, it is proposed to increase the amount of mapped intermediate reef habitat from 8% to 25% by adjusting the boundary of the St Georges – Steamers Head sanctuary zone.

As with the development of the original zoning plan, efforts are being made to keep available favoured fishing spots such as, Crookhaven Bight at Currarong, Middle Ground, Longnose Pt, and the NE corner of Bowen Island, while balancing the need to protect important reef habitat.

“That’s why it’s so important that we hear the views of fishers and other park users, along with conservation groups, throughout this consultation process.

Further information on the draft zoning plan can be found:

- on the Marine Parks Authority website at [www.mpa.nsw.gov.au](http://www.mpa.nsw.gov.au)
- by contacting the Environment Line on 1300 361 967
- at the Jervis Bay Marine Park office at 4 Woollamia Road, Huskisson NSW 2540
- at the National Parks regional office at 55 Graham Street, Nowra NSW 2541.

Public information displays will be held at the following locations:-

- Saturday 12 June 2010 - Near the Post Office, Piscator Avenue, Currarong - 8.30am-12pm
- Saturday 12 June 2010 – Shopping Centre, Emmett Street, Callala Bay – 1pm-4pm
- Sunday 13 June 2010 – Shopping Centre, Burton Street, Vincentia – 8.30am-12pm
- Sunday 13 June 2010 - Corner Owen Street and Currambene Street Huskisson – 1pm-4pm
- Thursday 17 June 2010 - Stockland Shopping Centre, East Street, Nowra – 10am – 3pm
- Saturday 19 June 2010 - Post office, Jacobs Drive, Sussex Inlet – 8.30am-12pm
- Sunday 20 June 2010 - General Store, Parkes Crescent, Callala Beach – 8.30am-12pm

All written submissions on the draft zoning plan received by 5:00pm on 17 September 2010 will be considered in finalising the new zoning plan.

For further information please call (02) 4428 3000 or email [jervis.bay@mpa.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jervis.bay@mpa.nsw.gov.au)

**The closing date for submissions is 5:00 pm on 17 September 2010.**