



**Australian Government**  
**Parks Australia**



## **Changes to arrangements for commercial fishing in Australian Marine Parks**

I am writing to let you know that from 1 July 2018, five new Australian Marine Park management plans will come into effect, creating new rules for where fishing can occur in 44 marine parks around the country. Australian Marine Parks are located in Commonwealth waters, 3 to 200 nautical miles from the coastline, beyond state water boundaries.

Commercial fishing can occur in yellow and blue zones in Australian Marine Parks in accordance with a class approval issued under each management plan. Class approvals set out the areas where commercial fishing can occur, the fishing methods that can be used, and the conditions that need to be followed while operating or transiting through Australian Marine Parks. They simplify regulation by authorising a group of people undertaking the same activity, rather than requiring individual fishers to apply for permits or licences.

We have been working closely with the Australian Fisheries Management Authority as well as state and territory fishery agencies, to ensure the class approvals do not duplicate existing fisheries management requirements. We have also consulted peak industry groups and fishery associations around the country.

Please find enclosed:

- a copy of the class approval relevant to your fishing concession/licence
- a factsheet, which includes an outline of what you need to know to comply with the class approval, as well as frequently asked questions, including where and how to access maps and electronic files of marine park boundaries.

I understand it may take time to become familiar with these new rules and to incorporate them into your operations. From 1 July 2018, our focus will be to increase awareness of the requirements within the class approvals. We will apply a reasonable and practical approach to compliance, however, where there is evidence of wilful or deliberate non-compliance, penalties may apply.

If you would like more information please email [marineparks@environment.gov.au](mailto:marineparks@environment.gov.au), phone 1800 069 352 or visit [www.parksaustralia.gov.au/marine](http://www.parksaustralia.gov.au/marine).

Kind regards



Jason Mundy  
Acting Director of National Parks

[parksaustralia.gov.au/marine](http://parksaustralia.gov.au/marine)

## **Australian Marine Parks**

Australian Marine Parks are managed by Parks Australia on behalf of the Director of National Parks. On 1 July 2018 five management plans will come into effect, covering 44 Australian Marine Parks. They are the:

- **Coral Sea Marine Park Management Plan 2018**  
(consisting of the Coral Sea Marine Park)
- **Temperate East Marine Parks Network Management Plan 2018**  
(consisting of Gifford, Solitary Islands, Norfolk, Cod Grounds, Lord Howe, Hunter, Central Eastern and Jarvis marine parks)
- **South-west Marine Parks Network Management Plan 2018**  
(consisting of Abrolhos, Eastern Recherche, Jurien, Twilight, Two Rocks, Great Australian Bight, Perth Canyon, Murat, Geographe, Western Eyre, Bremer, Western Kangaroo Island, South-west Corner, Southern Kangaroo Island marine parks)
- **North-west Marine Parks Network Management Plan 2018**  
(consisting of Kimberley, Dampier, Cartier Island, Montebello, Ashmore Reef, Mermaid Reef, Gascoyne, Ningaloo, Argo–Rowley Terrace, Carnarvon Canyon, Roebuck, Shark Bay, Eighty Mile Beach marine parks)
- **North Marine Parks Network Management Plan 2018**  
(consisting of West Cape York, Arnhem, Arafura, Limmen, Oceanic Shoals, Wessel, Joseph Bonaparte Gulf).

The **South-east Marine Parks Network Management Plan (2013)** plan is already in effect for the:

- **South-east Marine Parks Network**  
(consisting of Apollo, Beagle, Boags, East Gippsland, Flinders, Franklin, Freycinet, Huon, Macquarie Island, Murray, Nelson, South Tasman Rise, Tasman Fracture and Zeehan marine parks).