



27/09/07

Media Statement

Have your say in regional marine planning for WA's south coast

A series of workshops will be held over the coming months to enable community input into planning for one of WA's most important marine areas.

The South Coast Regional Marine Planning Advisory Group has been formed to advise the WA Government on development of a strategic plan for south coast marine waters.

Chairman of the advisory group, Roger Lewis of Esperance, said the marine environment of Western Australia's south coast provided a range of social, environmental, economic and cultural values.

"The South Coast Regional Marine Planning process aims to ensure the many benefits of this unique resource are available for all time," Mr Lewis said.

"The community workshops will provide an opportunity for interested groups and the general public to find out more about the planning process and to provide input about the things that are most important to them."

Mr Lewis said the members of the advisory group were from a diverse range of marine users.

"Their interests cover commercial and recreational fishing, aquaculture, marine conservation, tourism, the maritime industry, diving, boating, Aboriginal interests and petroleum exploration," Mr Lewis said.

"The group will provide advice on a strategic plan for the waters of the south coast from Cape Leeuwin to the South Australian border.

"We need to get this right, so we are able to protect the incredible diversity of our Southern Ocean, while still reaping recreational and economic benefits from the sea.

"The strategic plan is a first for WA State waters and the advisory group with a multi-agency team of Government representatives should be ready to present a draft copy around June 2008."

Dates for the workshops are:

2007

Esperance	Wednesday 10 October	Esperance Bay Yacht Club
Kalgoorlie	Thursday 11 October	Kalgoorlie Town Hall Banquet Room
Manjimup	Monday 22 October	The Gallery (Community Centre)
Kojonup	Tuesday 23 October	Shire Memorial/Lesser Hall
Albany	Wednesday 24 October	Princess Royal Sailing Club
Perth	TBA(venue TBA)	

2008

Hopetoun	Wednesday 16 January	(venue TBA)
Bremer Bay	Thursday 17 January	(venue TBA)
Denmark	Wednesday 23 January	(venue TBA)
Augusta	Thursday 24 January	(venue TBA)

Light refreshments will be provided.

For further information or to register an interest in attending a workshop, people can contact Peter van Schoubroeck on 9842 4500.

Media contact: Media relations on 6467 5555