

Gathering knowledge about Marine Parks

Marine Parks Research

Scientific research from around the world is demonstrating that marine parks are a powerful tool to help protect our coastal and marine environments and maintain them in a healthy condition.

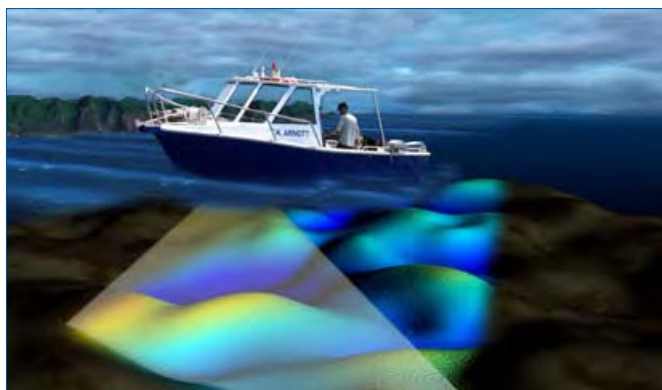
South Australian marine parks aim to protect representative samples of the state's unique and typical marine environments to ensure a healthy marine environment exists for current and future generations to enjoy.

Methods of scientific research

The location of marine parks in South Australia is based on scientifically informed principles and thorough and ongoing scientific studies which began in the 1990's.

South Australia's marine parks program employs a team of experienced marine scientists responsible for gathering information through scientific research and monitoring.

This research includes biodiversity surveys to count the number and diversity of species in a specific area and will include monitoring this information by re-visiting the same sites to check if the marine parks program is achieving the desired outcomes.



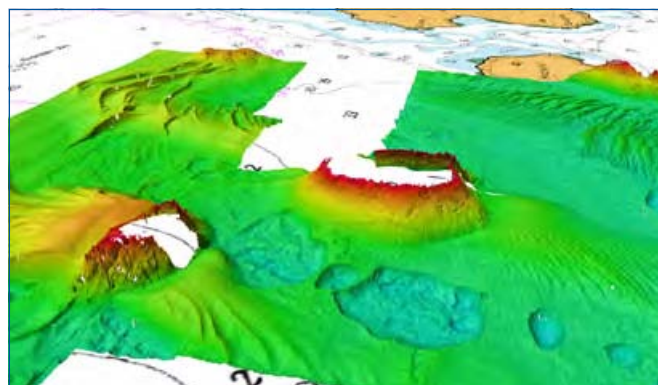
Mapping the ocean floor using sonar and acoustic technology.

The marine parks team is also mapping our marine habitats using high-resolution photography, satellite imagery and sophisticated acoustic sounding technology providing for greater detail than was previously available. To inspect the habitats seen on satellite images the seafloor is being studied with underwater video and acoustic sounding.

The results of this research are collated into detailed habitat maps. Together with existing scientific information, the habitat maps will be used in conjunction with social and economic information to develop marine park zoning.

Scientific partnerships

The marine science team has developed valuable partnerships with leading marine scientists, research institutions and community-based organisations to assist in developing the science underpinning South Australia's marine parks. For example South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI), Flinders University, University of Adelaide, University of Tasmania and University of Western Australia.



Thorny Passage (near Port Lincoln).

The marine parks program also benefits from the involvement and advice of some of South Australia's leading marine scientists. A Scientific Working Group comprising a number of South Australia's most recognised marine scientists provides independent advice to the Government across the full range of marine conservation initiatives including marine parks.

Key scientific work is also put out to peer review by experts in the field of systematic marine protected area design to ensure the program is keeping pace with best practice.

The combined scientific expertise and experience informing the development of South Australia's marine parks will ensure that they are scientifically sound, consistent with national and international standards and, therefore, stand the best possible chance of delivering the desired conservation outcomes.