



Photo: Destination NSW

Newsletter no.2

The Hawkesbury Shelf Marine Bioregion Assessment is progressing on schedule.

INFORMATION
COLLECTION
STEP 1

THREAT & RISK
ASSESSMENT
STEP 2

MANAGEMENT
OPTIONS
STEP 3

OPTIONS TO
GOVERNMENT
STEP 4

We have assessed the information gathered at **Step 1** of the project to inform **Step 2** – threat and risk assessment, as well as **Step 3** – development of management options to address priority threats.

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to provide information via the web portal and/or attend one of the workshops and/or provide a more detailed submission.

STEP 1 – INFORMATION COLLECTION

Web portal

The web portal was launched on 26 June 2015 and closed on the 28 August 2015. The community were informed about the web portal via:

- » media release
- » the marine estate website, Office of Environment and Heritage and Planning’s websites and the NSW Government’s ‘Have your Say’ website.
- » an email to over 700 organisations and individuals including 45 local councils. All were asked to pass on the email to their peers, stakeholders and friends and family.

- » social media – Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn
- » DPI e-newsletter **Newscast** which was sent to over 165,000 fishing licence holders and was opened by over 60,000 recipients.
- » emails sent via Multicultural NSW **Emailink** to approx. 5000 multicultural contacts, including community organisations, individuals and multicultural media.

For those people who did not have access to a computer, survey forms were available at all DPI Fisheries offices.

Over 1500 entries were gathered via the web portal.

Workshops

Seven workshops, including three targeted Aboriginal workshops, were held across the bioregion in July for peak stakeholder groups, state and local government officers and university representatives. The workshops were a great success thanks to the enthusiastic participation of the attendees and their valuable input.

A total of 86 people attended representing 48 organisations. Peak groups included boating, fishing, diving and conservation groups – for example the Boating Industry Association, Boat Owners Association, Wilderness Society NSW, Nature Conservation Council of NSW, Darkinjung Aboriginal Land Council, Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council, Dive Industry Association of Australia, Australian National Sportsfishing Association, Underwater Skindivers & Fishermen's Association, Commercial Fishermen's Co-operative Limited, Professional Fishermen's Association, Australian Marine Sciences Association and Oceanwatch Australia.



Over 100 pieces of butcher's paper were used to capture participants' thoughts and ideas about values and benefits of the Hawkesbury Shelf marine bioregion, their perceived threats to those benefits, their priority threats, and possible actions to address the priority threats.



HOW WILL THE INFORMATION BE USED?

All information provided is being used in the following way:

- » The benefits and values were compared with the results from the statewide **Community Survey** to ensure we captured all of those for the bioregion.
- » The threats to the benefits have been considered in Step 2.
- » The opportunities will be considered as part of developing the management options in Step 3 of the project.

STEP 2 – THREAT AND RISK ASSESSMENT

The **Threat and Risk Assessment (TARA) Framework**, which guides the TARA process was released on 25 June 2015. TARA includes:

- » identifying threats to the environmental, economic and social values and benefits derived from the marine estate,
- » assessing the risks of those identified threats,
- » prioritising threats according to their level of risk, and
- » developing management options for priority threats.

Expert workshops including an independent risk assessment facilitator and independent environmental, social, cultural and economic experts were held in August. The workshops determined the level of risk to each threat that was identified by the community, key stakeholders and/or experts. These risk levels will be summarised in a threat and risk assessment report.

WHAT'S NEXT?

There will be further community engagement opportunities for the Hawkesbury Shelf marine bioregion assessment, please visit www.marine.nsw.gov.au for updates.