

## **NSW Marine Estate Expert Workshop, 04 July 2013, Sydney**

A NSW marine estate expert workshop was held on 04 July 2013.

Dr Andrew Stoeckel, Chair of the Marine Estate Expert Knowledge Panel chaired the workshop and other experts in attendance included:

- Dr Kate Brooks, Sociologist
- Dr Neil Byron, Natural Resources Economist
- Dr Rick Fletcher, Fisheries Scientist and Manager
- Mr Peter McGinnity, Integrated marine and coastal ecosystem management

The Chair of the Marine Estate Management Authority, Dr Wendy Craik and departmental officers from the Department of Primary Industries and the Office of Environment and Heritage also attended.

A variety of matters were discussed at the workshop.

### **Threat and risk assessment framework**

Discussion included the use of the threat and risk assessment framework to support evidence based decision making in the NSW marine estate, and the need for the framework to consider social and economic values as well as ecological assets.

Presentations were provided on the approaches taken to assess threats and risks by Western Australia and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. The group discussed the advantages and disadvantages of each of the approaches and were in agreement that clear upfront objectives and knowledge about acceptable levels of impact are important.

The experts further discussed components of the threat and risk assessment framework and ecological risk assessment methodology was considered in some detail.

### **Trade-offs**

The group noted that the objectives for the marine estate have a triple bottom line of achieving ecological, economic and social benefits. The notion of trade-offs was discussed in detail. The use of social impact assessment, other social assessment approaches and environmental valuation techniques were raised. It was agreed that in most cases good judgement will be required to balance protection and use of the marine estate and that these decisions should be transparent and openly communicated.

### **Ocean beaches and headlands assessment**

The assessment of recreational fishing access to ocean beaches and headlands in marine parks sanctuary zones was discussed as a priority project, including the scope, methodology and context of the assessment. The group discussed how the results from the assessment will inform on-going arrangements related to the amnesty.

### **Public engagement**

The experts discussed ways to engage the community in marine estate projects including using a long term (across decades) vision like in the Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report and identifying common objectives across different user groups. The workshop agreed that early engagement is important and the advantages of different engagement methods including targeted stakeholder engagement as well as broad community consultation.