



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Draft Marine Estate Management Strategy

FAQ #7 – TOURISM & RECREATION IN OUR MARINE ESTATE

The Marine Estate Management Authority (the Authority) has released a Draft Marine Estate Management Strategy (draft Strategy), setting out the proposed approach to manage the statewide priority threats to the marine estate.

This fact sheet outlines how the draft Strategy intends to support tourism and recreation in our NSW marine estate. We welcome your feedback on this draft Strategy.

WHY IS THE STRATEGY NEEDED?

The marine estate includes some of NSW's most valued assets – its coastline, estuaries and marine waters. It provides a range of environmental, cultural, social and economic benefits to the NSW community.

The Strategy is a requirement of the *Marine Estate Management Act 2014*. It must set out the vision and priorities for management of the marine estate.

The vision for the marine estate is a healthy coast and sea, managed for the greatest wellbeing of the community, now and into the future.

The draft Strategy proposes eight management initiatives to address priority and cumulative threats to the marine estate over the next decade in order to deliver on the vision for the marine estate.

WHY IS TOURISM & RECREATION IMPORTANT?

Millions of domestic and international visitors enjoy the NSW marine estate, generating billions of dollars each year for NSW and the Australian economies. The marine estate provides outstanding experiences for the local community and visitors, whether it is scuba diving, snorkelling, charter fishing, exercising, surfing, swimming, four wheel driving on the beach, taking in the spectacular coastal views or nature watching, we all enjoy what our marine estate has to offer.

WHY ARE INITIATIVES NEEDED?

The recent statewide Threat and Risk Assessment (statewide TARA) identified the priority threats to the environmental assets and social, cultural and economic benefits that communities gain from the marine estate associated with a range of tourism and recreation activities.

Water pollution has been identified as the number one threat to both environmental assets and the social, cultural and economic benefits associated with recreation and tourism.

Threats associated with coastal use and development on foreshores and waterways was also identified as a priority threat. Modifications to, and loss of coastal

habitat from development, or other human activities affects coastal and marine biodiversity. Declining biodiversity has negative social and economic impacts on local communities that, passively and actively, enjoy the numerous benefits of the marine estate.

Threats impacting on social, cultural and economic benefits associated with recreation and tourism include loss of access to areas, resource-use conflict with other users of the marine estate, reductions in catch due to reduced species abundance from harvest, loss or degradation of fish habitats and the range of pollution that impacts on fish species, water quality and amenity.

HOW WILL THE DRAFT STRATEGY IMPROVE TOURISM AND RECREATION?

A number of the initiatives will assist in managing the threats to tourism and recreation identified in the statewide TARA.

Management initiative 1 aims to *improve water quality and reduce marine litter for the benefit of marine habitats, wildlife and the community*. In addition management initiative 2 aims to *protect coastal habitats and enhance the health of estuarine and coastal waterways by improving the design, quality and ongoing management of foreshore development, use and waterways infrastructure*

Management initiative 6 aims to *ensure fishing and aquaculture provides for sustainable use while providing for the health, heritage and social benefits of seafood consumption to the community*. In addition, management initiative 8 aims to *improve governance arrangements in the marine estate and to respond to knowledge gaps, resource-use conflict and loss of public access*.

Actions to address the priority environmental threats and to maximise the social and economic benefits derived from recreation and tourism include:

- investigating and implementing opportunities to promote sustainable fishing through an active fish tourism events program including festivals

- providing incentives to enhance sustainable tourism and recreational use of the marine estate
- developing school and community education and awareness programs to improve awareness of the marine estate
- developing an innovative culture and expansion of digital technologies, in particular for compliance and education programs
- seeking opportunities to streamline current legislation and policies to reduce red tape
- identifying and spatially mapping use of the marine estate to fill critical knowledge gaps and develop appropriate proactive and responsive management
- developing and applying spatial management tools to reduce resource-use conflict (anti-social behaviour, overcrowding) and improve access to the marine estate.



HAVE YOUR SAY

The Authority is seeking your feedback on the draft Strategy. You can submit your feedback via an electronic submission form on the marine estate reforms website www.marine.nsw.gov.au.

More information on consultation and opportunities to provide feedback can be found at www.marine.nsw.gov.au.

If you have any queries or would like to register for marine estate reform updates you can email us at contact.us@marine.nsw.gov.au.

© State of New South Wales through Department of Industry, 2017. You may copy, distribute and otherwise freely deal with this publication for any purpose, provided that you attribute the NSW Marine Estate Management Authority as the owner.

Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (October 2017). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that the information upon which they rely is up to date and to check the currency of the information with the author or the user's independent advisor. Published by the Department of Primary Industries.

Images: istock.com/master2. PUB17/717