

# NIELSEN PARK

Nielsen Park is in Vaucluse, in Sydney’s eastern suburbs.

A 17 hectare site is proposed extending north from Steele Point, including Shark Beach, and Bottle and Glass Point (Figure 22).

## CURRENT MANAGEMENT

The shoreline of the proposed area is already in the Sydney Harbour IPA, which covers the area from the mean high water mark to 10 metres seaward from the mean low water mark. Fishing is allowed. All taking, gathering and collecting of all invertebrates and other seashore animals is prohibited, including crabs, snails, worms, octopus, sea urchins, anemones, pipis, cockles, mussels, oysters, saltwater nippers and cunjevoi.

The site is adjacent to Sydney Harbour National Park.

## SITE OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives for the proposed Nielsen Park site are to:

- enhance the conservation of marine biodiversity
- enhance the intrinsic benefits derived by the community from the marine estate
- enhance bequest values for current and future generations
- to reduce conflicts between users of the marine estate
- to provide enhanced recreational experiences for particular user groups

- provide baseline monitoring areas (scientific reference sites)
- ensure appropriate mechanisms exist for community involvement in the management of the marine estate
- promote stewardship of the marine estate.

The secondary objectives that apply to this site are listed in Table 5.

## ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC VALUES

The site contains rocky shores, sandy beaches, shallow estuarine reef and some of the endangered Sydney Harbour population of *Posidonia australis* seagrass.

Snorkelling, swimming, and scuba diving are very popular in the area and the beach is one of Sydney Harbour’s most popular. The beach has a barrier shark net in place from October to April. This net is a well-known habitat for White’s seahorse (*Hippocampus whitei*).

The area has significance to the local Aboriginal communities. Spiritual sites and evidence of past cultural use, including shell middens, have been recorded.

## PRIORITY THREATS TARGETED TO ENHANCE BENEFITS AT THIS SITE

The threats that will be addressed at this site and expected benefits to be enhanced are listed in Table 35.

Table 35. Threats and expected benefits

	Environmental			Social, cultural, economic		
Threats	 Boating	 Climate change	 Recreational fishing	 Conflict	 Habitat disturbance	 Reduction in species
Benefits	 Seagrass	 Rocky shores	 Shallow reefs	 Intrinsic & bequest	 Scientific reference sites	 Participation (wellbeing)
	 Fish assemblages	 Species protected under FMA	 Biodiversity	 Participation (socialising)	 Enjoyment (biodiversity & beauty)	 Aboriginal cultural heritage & use

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## PROPOSED MANAGEMENT RULES












In the proposed sanctuary zone, the removal or harm of marine biodiversity would be prohibited, including fishing by any method, hand gathering or collecting marine organisms (whether dead or alive). Permissible activities would include those that are minimal–low risk, such as swimming, snorkelling, scuba diving and Aboriginal cultural use.

Recreational boating would be permitted, but anchoring in seagrass areas would be prohibited (Table 36).



Figure 22. Proposed Nielsen Park site

**Table 36. Current activities and suggested permissible activities in the proposed Nielsen Park site**

Nielsen Park	 Boating	 Anchoring	 Line fishing	 Spear fishing	 Lobster fishing	 Abalone fishing	 Scuba diving /snorkelling	 Hand gathering	 Collecting marine vegetation	 Commercial fishing	 Aboriginal cultural heritage & use
Current	✓	✓ <sup>1</sup>	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	× <sup>2</sup>	✓	×	✓
Proposed sanctuary zone	✓	✓ <sup>1</sup>	×	×	×	×	✓	×	×	×	✓

1 Not in seagrass areas

2 Intertidal area currently protected as part of Sydney Harbour IPA

## FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community consultation identified Nielsen Park for its high social value as a site for passive recreation and high environmental value. Conflict between fishers and beach users was reported. There was support for a no-take area in Sydney Harbour including a Sydney Harbour Marine Park.

The Recreational Fishing Alliance, Australian National Sportfishing Association and other submissions proposed that Sydney Harbour be declared a recreational fishing haven.

