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### Project summary






Taking action to protect threatened and protected species in the marine estate by working with the community, partners, industry and government partners to share information and resources to respond to marine wildlife events, undertake monitoring programs and ensure people using the marine estate minimise interactions with threatened and protected marine species.


This quarter has seen a significant increase in marine wildlife incidents and progress has been made coordinating responses. Three external organisations have been on-boarded into [Elements](#) (the NPWS marine wildlife response portal), workshops with stakeholders held and a Shorebird education and extension officer to commence next quarter.

Observed commercial fishing activity continues onboard cooperative vessels and information is contributing to inform management decisions. Industry specific gear and method modifications are being tested and implemented to enable sustainable fishing and reduce interactions with threatened and protected species.

### Quarterly progress and highlights






A breakdown of progress is outlined below.

Project	Project icon	Location	Progress
Planning to protect marine wildlife		Statewide	Coordination of marine wildlife response including two meetings of the newly established Marine Wildlife Response Working Group.  Annual reporting for target marine species completed in <a href="#">Saving Our Species</a> .
Partnerships to protect marine wildlife		Statewide	Publication of <a href="#">Code of Practice for injured and sick sea turtles and sea snakes</a> .  Commenced workshop series with key stakeholders to identify priority gaps and partnership opportunities including IFAW, WWF, Southern Cross University.  Delivered and distributed priority rescue gear along the NSW coastline including seal signs, turtle rescue mats, dolphin slings and satellite tracking tags.
Improve reporting of interactions with marine wildlife		Statewide	Completed user agreements and onboarded three external organisations (ORRCA, Dolphin Marine Rescue, Sydney SeaLife) to <a href="#">Elements</a> to improve coordination to marine wildlife emergencies.
Observer survey prioritisation		Mid-Coast, Port Stephens, Newcastle, Central Coast, Northern Beaches	Analysed Ocean Fish Trawl Fishery observed data to revise sampling designs to provide effective and statistically robust coverage for estimating total catch and interactions with high risk species including threatened and protected species.
Ocean Trap and Line Fishery observer survey		Tweed to Port Stephens	35 observed-sea days completed onboard cooperating commercial vessels from several northern NSW ports.

Project	Project icon	Location	Progress
Strategies for mitigating species interactions		Mid-Coast, Port Stephens, Newcastle, Central Coast	In collaboration with Ocean Watch Australia and commercial fishers, developed ten vessel specific Seabird Management Plans (SMP) that identify the main threats posed to seabirds.

### What's next?

Work that is planned to occur in the following quarter is reported below, although unexpected changes to scheduling can occur and will be communicated to affected stakeholders.

Project	Project icon	Location	Anticipated work
Planning to protect marine wildlife		Statewide	<p>Marine Wildlife Response Working Group to finalise updates to the Marine Wildlife Management Manual.</p> <p>Commencement of a new Code of Practice for injured and sick sea turtles and sea snakes for licensed rescue organisations.</p> <p>Staff and volunteer training in the management and monitoring of threatened beach-nesting birds.</p>
Partnerships to protect marine wildlife		Statewide	<p>Participate in Australian Government Marine Turtle Roundtable.</p> <p>Completion of preliminary stakeholder workshops to identify priority gaps and partnership opportunities. Stakeholders include universities (e.g. Southern Cross University, Macquarie University), marine wildlife rescue organisations (e.g. Australian Seabird Rescue, Dolphin Marine Rescue) and conservation groups involved in marine wildlife (e.g. IFAW, Living Ocean).</p>
Ocean Trap and Line Fishery observer survey		Tweed to Port Stephens	50 observed-sea days completed.
Ocean Trawl Fishery observer survey		Tweed to Newcastle	Detailed analysis of observer data to describe bycatch in the NSW Ocean Prawn Trawl fishery, and examine benefits associated with the introduction of bycatch mitigation measures.
Strategies for mitigating species interactions		Port Stephens, Newcastle, Northern Beaches	A series of port visits will be held in Nelson Bay, Newcastle and Sydney to discuss the implementation of Seabird Management Plans and distribute physical mitigation measures (i.e. buoys) with NSW Ocean Trawl Fish Trawl Northern Zone fishers (10 participants).

### More information

More information on Initiative 5 projects are on the marine estate web site [here](#).



## Initiative 6 – Sustainable fishing and aquaculture






### Project summary



This initiative aims to deliver viable recreational, Aboriginal and commercial fisheries now and into the future. Actions include enhancing fishing opportunities with fish stocking and installing artificial structures, ensuring best management practice through policy reviews and education programs, and exploring new business opportunities.

New fisheries management processes are being advanced with policy guidelines nearing public consultation, assistance is being provided to enable new marine aquaculture ventures, live stream events delivering key messages about ethical angling delivered to thousands of recreational fishers, fish stocking events and artificial reef installation are working to enhance fish populations, and research projects expanding our knowledge including a peer reviewed publication to determine finfish management priorities.

### Quarterly progress and highlights






A breakdown of progress is outlined below.

Project	Project icon	Location	Progress
Harvest strategy development		Statewide	Draft NSW Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy & Guidelines reviewed by relevant Advisory Councils and preparations underway for broader public consultation.  Harvest strategy working groups established for Trawl Whiting and Lobster fisheries.
Harvest strategy research		Statewide	Draft harvest strategy processes developed for Trawl Whiting including methods for data collection, assessment and management responses for upcoming review by working groups.  <a href="#">Peer reviewed publication</a> detailing a method for prioritising 141 fished species in NSW for population monitoring and assessment, contributing to harvest strategies development.
Recreational fishing environment assessment		Statewide  Wollongong to Bega	Two livestream "The Fishing Stream" events focussing on <a href="#">Snapper</a> and <a href="#">Mulloway</a> delivered, promoting responsible recreational fishing to over 137,000 people.  Signage to encourage responsible fishing around stingrays at boat ramps installed at 12 locations throughout the south coast from Bellambi to Tathra.
Marine aquaculture		Shoalhaven	<a href="#">NSW Marine Waters Sustainable Aquaculture Strategy</a> is being used to attract and guide aquaculture investment to NSW including South Coast Mariculture new aquaculture leases in Jervis Bay. Story reported through <a href="#">ABC Landline</a> .
Socio-ecological research		Statewide	Research agreement with University of Tasmania Centre for Marine Socioecology to identify the barriers to integrating socioecological research and management in multi-agency programs and how to address them.

Project	Project icon	Location	Progress
Fisheries enhancement		Botany Bay	590 juvenile kingfish stocked into Botany Bay averaging approximately 20-25cm in length.
		Tweed	Tweed Offshore Artificial Reef, NSW most northern reef complex, installation commenced.
Marine biosecurity awareness		Statewide	<p>Charles Sturt University (CSU) engaged to design and deliver social research into the barriers, benefits and drivers for management of biofouling on small-medium sized vessels.</p> <p>Stakeholder analysis questions drafted in readiness for community interviews.</p>

### What's next?

Work that is planned to occur in the following quarter is reported below, although unexpected changes to scheduling can occur and will be communicated to affected stakeholders.

Project	Project icon	Location	Anticipated work
Harvest strategy development		Statewide	<p>Public consultation on NSW Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy &amp; Guidelines.</p> <p>Formally establish lobster and spanner crab harvest strategy working groups and undertake meetings.</p>
Harvest strategy research		Statewide	Investigations into performance indicators such as catch rate and size from NSW recreational fishing data.
Socio-ecological research		Statewide	Report from the Centre for Marine Socio-Ecology, University of Tasmania examining barriers to integrating socioecological research and management in multi-agency programs and how to address them.
Fisheries enhancement		Tweed	Complete installation of the Tweed Offshore Artificial Reef.
		Batmans Bay	Undertake Request for Tender (RFT) process for the Batmans Bay Offshore Artificial Reef and award design and construct contract to successful tenderer.
		South coast estuaries	Request for Quote (RFQ) process for the supply of dusky flathead fingerlings for stock enhancement under NSW DPI marine stocking program.
Marine biosecurity awareness		Statewide	Develop online statewide social research survey and invite submissions.

### More information

More information on Initiative 6 projects are on the marine estate web site [here](#).




## Initiative 7 – Enabling safe and sustainable boating

### Project summary

Projects are achieving safer and sustainable boating by developing new mooring technology to minimise seagrass impacts, improving infrastructure including boat ramps and navigational aids, and delivering education campaigns to reduce environmental impacts.





### Quarterly progress and highlights


A breakdown of progress is outlined below.

Project	Project icon	Location	Progress
Boating Now		Statewide	Successful projects under Round 3 of the <a href="#">Boating Now Boating</a> were announced in July 2020. Sixty-nine projects have received funding under this round, including boat ramps, jetties, wharves, car and trailer parking, dinghy storage racks and sewage pump-outs.
Best practices for offshore vessel anchoring		Wollongong	Underwater video surveys conducted off the coast of Wollongong to assess the potential impact of merchant ship anchors on rocky reef habitat.
End-of-life vessel management		Statewide	Development of an End-of-Life vessel issues paper.

### What's next?

Work that is planned to occur in the following quarter is reported below, although unexpected changes to scheduling can occur and will be communicated to affected stakeholders. The below list is not exhaustive.

Project	Project icon	Location	Anticipated work
Recreational boater education		Statewide	Finalisation of draft Boating Handbook by early 2021.
Boating Now		Statewide	Continue to collaborate with stakeholder to deliver projects under the <a href="#">Boating Now Program</a> .
End-of-life vessel management		Statewide	Finalise End-of-life vessel issues paper after completion of internal and external reviews through MEMS and targeted stakeholders.
Best practices for offshore vessel anchoring		Greater Sydney region	Remotely operated vehicle surveys in the Greater Sydney region to assess the potential impact of large ships anchoring on deep reef habitats.

Project	Project icon	Location	Anticipated work
Marine pollution legislation		Statewide	Marine Pollution Amendment (Review) Bill 2020 scheduled to be introduced to parliament.

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### More information

More information on Initiative 7 projects are on the marine estate web site [here](#).

## Initiative 8 – Enhancing social, cultural and economic benefits




### Project summary

This initiative has a major education, research and monitoring component, working with institutions and government agencies to increase understanding of how we all use and value the marine estate, to maximise community benefits.

This quarter has seen the draft Marine Estate Education Strategy in its final approvals to be released for targeted consultation. A new project 'maritime heritage review' has commenced that will undertake a localised risk assessment of threats to marine historic heritage. The implementation of the Community Wellbeing Framework is advancing with the coastal residents and visitors surveys undergoing in-depth internal engagement with other agencies and is now awaiting final approval. The Sea Country (marine estate) community wellbeing survey has progressed with the drafting of the questionnaire and sampling approach.


### Quarterly progress and highlights



A breakdown of progress is outlined below

Project	Project icon	Location	Progress
Marine estate education strategy		Statewide	Developing a curriculum-based primary schools Marine Estate Agents Pilot program including establishing a working group.
Maritime heritage review		Coffs Harbour	Project scope developed, and project is running according to the proposed project task schedule.
Community wellbeing framework		Statewide	<p>MEMA agency staff engaged to build capacity for cross agency involvement on the community wellbeing framework and coastal residents and visitors survey.</p> <p>Coastal residents and visitors' surveys refined through cognitive testing of all survey questions prior to implementation.</p> <p>Collection of administration data for cultural indicators.</p> <p>Development and collaboration with DPIE-EES on the internal MEMA agency staff survey.</p>

### What's next?

Work that is planned to occur in the following quarter is reported below, although unexpected changes to scheduling can occur and will be communicated to affected stakeholders.

Project	Project icon	Location	Anticipated work
Marine estate education strategy		Statewide	Targeted consultation with stakeholders on the draft Marine Estate Education Strategy.

Project	Project icon	Location	Anticipated work
Maritime heritage review		Coffs Harbour	Explore innovative ways of interpreting items and sites. Investigate ways of rebuilding sand dunes around the "Buster" shipwreck. Prepare a threat and risk assessment for the project area.
Community wellbeing framework		Statewide	Commencement of the coastal residents and visitor survey. Design of the Sea Country (marine estate) community wellbeing survey.

**More information**

More information on Initiative 8 is on the marine estate web site [here](#).

## Initiative 9 – Delivering effective governance





### Project summary



Initiative 9 has changed its focus to governance at the project level, which is enabled by several new projects. This includes marine planning actions proposed in 2020/21 that are critical to the delivery of NSW Government commitments and community expectations for the delivery of marine park management planning for the network of six marine parks by 2024, aquatic reserve management, and compliance in the Greater Sydney region.

New projects have been assigned a project lead and project management processes in place to ensure robust, effective and transparent delivery to meet the needs of agencies, partners and stakeholders. A desktop survey of MEMS projects to identify governance and reducing red tape components has been completed.

### Quarterly progress and highlights






A breakdown of progress is outlined below.

Project	Project icon	Location	Progress
Improving project governance		Statewide	Desktop survey of projects identified that of 100 plus MEMS projects, approximately 34 are anticipated to improve governance and 28 reduce red tape in the marine estate.
Reducing red tape			Six internal project management training sessions including governance/red tape undertaken with MEMS project leads.
Streamlining authorisation processes		Statewide	<p>Over 150 pages of existing DPI Fisheries document-based permit application forms have been mapped into a single draft online permit application form across a range of different fisheries and marine park activities. This draft form is being tested and refined ready for implementation in the coming months.</p> <p>A dedicated DPI Fisheries team established to support streamlined authorisation processes and improved customer service into the future.</p>
Greater Sydney region compliance focusing on marine protected areas		Newcastle to Wollongong	<p>Greater Metropolitan Mobile Squad Fisheries officers conducted more than 440 inspections with an observed compliance rate of 89%.</p> <p>A total of 67 offences have been reported by the officers in this quarter comprised of 17 pending actions, 33 written warnings and 17 penalty notices. Most significant offences were possessing prohibited size fish (23), fail to pay fishing fee (13) and exceed possession limits (11).</p> <p>A total of 3276 invertebrates and fish were seized including 2156 mixed shellfish, 654 abalone, 404 cockles and 20 Blue swimmer crabs.</p>

Project	Project icon	Location	Progress
Better geographic information systems for the marine estate		Statewide	Cadastral data analysis and production of GIS layers for private foreshore structures strategies (INT 2.3) Developed online citizen science tool (Shellfish Reef Reporter) to support oyster reef restoration research (INT 1.3)
Improved management of aquatic reserves and high value sites		Statewide	Interpretative signs installed at Long Reef Aquatic Reserve to support user and school educational activities. Production underway on education video for Long Reef Aquatic Reserve.

### What's next?

Work that is planned to occur in the following quarter is reported below, although unexpected changes to scheduling can occur and will be communicated to affected stakeholders.

Project	Project icon	Location	Anticipated work
Improving project governance		Statewide	Complete classification of projects by governance outcomes in <a href="#">MIMP framework</a> and determine how to report on these in the next quarterly report.
Streamlining authorisation processes		Statewide	Undertake a risk-based assessment and explore opportunities to allow low impact activities to operate under a code of conduct or exempt and complying criteria rather than a marine park permit. This may include some education, research, tourism, filming, event and Aboriginal cultural fishing activities.
Greater Sydney region compliance focusing on marine protected areas		Newcastle to Wollongong	Inspection of increasing numbers of collectors and fishers throughout the summer holiday period.
Better geographic information systems for the marine estate		Statewide	Complete remnant oyster reef mapping for Port Stephens. Improved bathymetry products available for estuaries including Richmond River.
Improved management of aquatic reserves and high value sites		Statewide	Preparation of an aquatic reserve engagement plan. Education video completed and take-a-tour webpages developed for Long Reef Aquatic Reserve.

### More information

More information on Initiative 9 is on the marine estate web site [here](#).



## Part C: Additional program requirements

### Program management, monitoring, reporting and evaluation

#### Project summary




Implementing a governance structure and program management framework to support delivery of the Strategy statewide. Provide MEMA agencies and staff with the tools and training to ensure robust governance and project management is coordinated, integrated and transparent.

Improve communication, engagement, and education to increase community awareness of the marine estate and associated threats and benefits and enable effective community participation.

Implement a monitoring program to facilitate centralised and efficient coordination, reporting and integration of environmental, social, cultural and economic information for the NSW marine estate. Develop an evaluation framework for the Authority, responsible agencies and relevant Ministers to report on progress of the Strategy in meeting clearly defined outcomes, highlight successes and consider threats that may need further management intervention.



#### Quarterly progress and highlights

A breakdown of progress is outlined below.

Project	Project icon	Location	Progress
Strategy program management		Statewide	<p>Program evaluation process commenced. Working group formed and progressed engagement of the chosen consultant.</p> <p>Project management workbook provided to all project leads and project management training delivered to all Strategy project leads.</p> <p>Completion and approval of all MOU's with key project partners for delivery of MEMS in 2020/21.</p>
Strategy education, communication and stakeholder liaison			<p>Functionality of the marine estate website improved and updates to pages including launch of MEMS reporting page, new project profile pages, 4 news stories, 2 agency media releases.</p> <p>Delivered September newsletter to over 1100 subscribers.</p> <p>9 news stories released to inform internal stakeholders of Strategy projects and build support and collaboration.</p>
Monitoring program – program management		Statewide	<p>Program plan and governance developed. Monitoring program Steering Committee created and regular meetings commenced.</p>

#### What's next?

Work that is planned to occur in the following quarter is reported below, although unexpected changes to scheduling can occur and will be communicated to affected stakeholders.

Project	Project icon	Location	Anticipated work
Strategy program management			<p>Consultant engaged to commence program evaluation.</p> <p>Progress baseline evaluation of the Strategy with focus on process and outcomes.</p> <p>Ongoing project management and training and support for MEMS staff.</p> <p>Provide individual, focused project management training to improve program reporting.</p>
Strategy education, communication and stakeholder liaison			<p>Renew marine estate website working group across four marine estate agencies to determine vision and objectives for the marine estate website and identify updates needed to website layout and management.</p> <p>December newsletter released.</p> <p>Continued development of project profiles, news stories and media releases.</p> <p>Increase number of community and stakeholder subscriptions to Mailchimp.</p>

**More information**

More information on Program management, monitoring, reporting and evaluation is on the marine estate web site [here](#).

## Appendix A – List of abbreviations

Abbreviation	Definition
Authority	Marine Estate Management Authority
COVID-19	Coronavirus
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
DPI-Agriculture	Department of Primary industries – Agriculture
DPI-Fisheries	Department of Primary Industries – Fisheries
DPIE-EES	Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – Environment, Energy and Science
DPIE-Lands	Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – Crown Lands
DPIE-Planning	Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – Planning and Assessment
DPIE-Water	Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – Water
FSG	Fertiliser Stewardship Group
GIS	Geographic Information System
Knowledge Panel	Marine Estate Expert Knowledge Panel
LGA	Local Government Area
LLS	Local Land Services
MASC	Marine Estate Agency Steering Committee
MEAM	Marine Estate Activity Mapping
MEMS	Marine Estate Management Strategy
MIMP	Marine Integrated Monitoring Program
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NPWS	DPIE- EES: National Parks and Wildlife Service
NSW	New South Wales
RRWQMS	Richmond River Water Quality Monitoring Strategy
SEED	Sharing and Enabling Environmental Data
SEPP	State Environmental Planning Policy
Strategy	Marine Estate Management Strategy

Abbreviation	Definition
TARA	threat and risk assessment
TfNSW	Transport for NSW
WRL	Water Research Laboratory
QLD	Queensland

## Appendix B – Communication and engagement

Date	Stakeholder	Activity	Initiative	Communication and engagement
July	NSW community		7	<a href="#">\$28 million to ramp up boating facilities</a>
	Blueberry Industry	webinar	1	<a href="#">Digging the dirt on blueberry mound fertiliser management</a>
	NSW community	Media release	7	<a href="#">Transport for NSW Boating Now Round 3 Successful projects</a>
	NSW community	Facebook livestream event	6	<a href="#">The Fishing Stream - snapper</a>
August	NSW community	Industry newsletter	1	<a href="#">Fertiliser Stewardship Group (FSG) Newsletter - August 2020</a>
	NSW community	Marine estate - news		<a href="#">NSW Marine Estate Newsletter (September)</a>
September	NSW community	Marine estate news	1	<a href="#">How do you make a local council fish friendly</a>
	NSW community	Media release	9	<a href="#">Fishing for fines in Georges River and Botany Bay</a>
	NSW community	Marine estate news	1	<a href="#">Environmentally friendly mooring trail in Port Stephens</a>
	NSW community	Marine estate news	1	<a href="#">Responding to the impacts of recent storms on bushfire affected catchments</a>
	NSW community	Marine estate news	4	<a href="#">Funding helps float cultural tourism on NSW south coast</a>

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Date	Stakeholder	Activity	Initiative	Communication and engagement
	NSW community	Facebook livestream event	6	<a href="#">The Fishing Stream - mulloway</a>
	NSW community	Scientific peer review	6	<a href="#">Prioritising fished stocks for monitoring and assessment</a>

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