# DAVEY BIOREGION

# HIGH PRIORITY MARINE PARKS

*Roaring Forties, Photo: M.Jacques*


MARINE LIFE NETWORK

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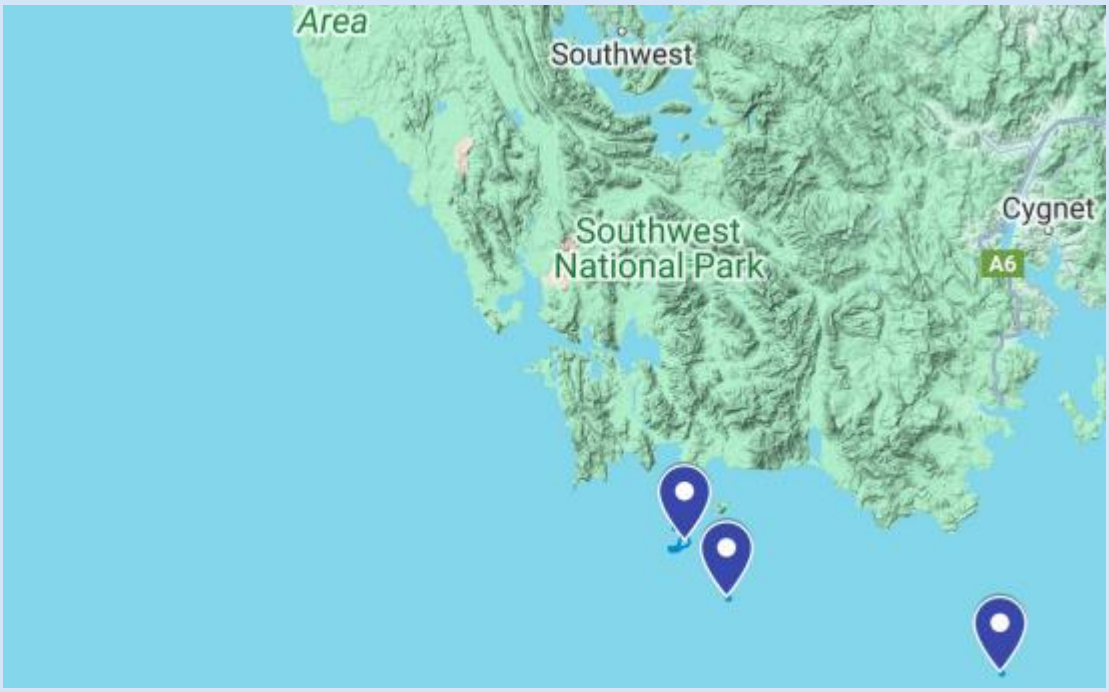
# Davey Bioregion Plan

## *What is the Davey Bioregion*

The Davey Bioregion encompasses the entire northern and central parts of the West Coast of Tasmania.




## *Special natural features of the Davey Bioregion*

Tasmania's oceans are all special, but why is Davey Bioregion different from other parts of Tasmania? Some of its key features are:

Special features of the Davey Bioregion

| | |
|---|---|
| unique and complex drowned river valleys | ✓ |
| only large estuarine system in southern Australia without significant human impact | ✓ |
| unique populations of endemic sessile invertebrates | ✓ |
| low nutrient levels estuary and distinct layering ('stratification') due to dark tannin-stained surface waters | ✓ |
| Harbour fish communities are dominated by sharks, skates, and rays | ✓ |
| An exposed coast extension of the tannin estuary system occurs in part of Port Davey forming a unique 'overlap' zone with clearer water | ✓ |
| high wave energy waters | ✓ |
| Shallow inlets | ✓ |
| Tasmania's southern-most offshore island have Antarctic influence | ✓ |
| Distinct Subtidal communities | ✓ |
| Big swells and exposed coast | ✓ |
| Endangered Humpback and Southern Right Whales migration routes | ✓ |
| Giant Kelp communities | ✓ |
| geoheritage sites, unique coastal landforms | ✓ |
| Numerous small islands important for seals and seabirds | ✓ |
| Low fish diversity | ✓ |
| Distinct algal flora | ✓ |

## *What Scientists have said about the natural values of the bioregion*

Named with reference to Port Davey, the Davey Bioregion has the most extensive undeveloped coastline in southeastern Australia, and extraordinary marine values that contribute to the international significance of the broader south-west Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. It has an extremely exposed open coastline, experiencing persistent westerly air streams, high rainfall and heavy ocean swells that are reflected by its dramatic coastal landforms. Extensive rocky headlands occur along the coast and are separated by sandy beaches, while the diverse ecosystems include maximally and sub-maximally exposed rocky coastlines, numerous spectacular offshore islands, and the sheltered estuarine areas of Bathurst Channel and Harbour. The region is globally unique by virtue of its isolation, lack of disturbance and lack of pollution from the land, while the southern shores and offshore islands provide a strong ecological link with the Southern Ocean. It contains many pristine estuaries, including four out of ten categorized statewide as having critical conservation significance. New River is arguably the most pristine integrated coastal, estuarine, and freshwater system in Australia, while the Port Davey/ Bathurst Harbour system is the most geomorphologically prominent feature of the region and has globally significant conservation values associated with its highly unusual physical attributes and biological communities. The majority of the latter estuary is located within the only Marine Protected Area declared to date in this bioregion. The major biological features of the Davey Bioregion are an algal flora that includes elements very distinct from those found elsewhere, and a low diversity of reef fish associated with high wave exposure on the open coast, and combined influences of low productivity and high freshwater inputs in estuaries. However, fish communities include a large number of highly restricted endemic species, including an Endangered relic skate, sandfish, cave dwelling ling and clingfishes68. Algal communities are unique due to unusual conditions both in estuaries and on the open coast; in the tannin-affected estuaries, brown kelps are replaced at shallow depths by a range of delicate red algae usually found much deeper, while heavy wave exposure on the open coast has the reverse effect of pushing Bull Kelp to much greater depths than recorded elsewhere. Marine invertebrate communities contain many potentially endemic species recorded from only one location while the high diversity of beach sandhoppers and relatives in undisturbed habitats is globally unique and has facilitated study of the transition of life from sea to land. The Davey Bioregion contains significant bird populations, particularly on remote offshore islands, including critical albatross habitat, approximately five million seabirds dominated in number by Short-tailed Shearwaters and Fairy Prions, and internationally significant (i.e. > 1% of total population) numbers of three resident shorebird species. These islands also include the only breeding habitats around Tasmania for two Threatened seal species."

Dr Graham Edgar
'The major features of this bioregion are an algal flora that is distinctly different to that found elsewhere and a low diversity of fish species".

<u>Bioregion Social and economic factors</u>

The area is uninhabited and largely unvisited apart from cray and abalone fishing craft and a few yachts.

Commercial fishing

The South West Coast produced 296 tonnes of crayfish in 2021, out of a TAC of 1050 tonnes.

Abalone harvesting across the entire Western Zone [part of Davey and Franklin bioregion] remained stable in 2022, or marginally declining in some sub-blocks. Both catch and CPUE have declined in the Western Zone since the early 2000's leading to sustained recruitment overfishing. The recommended Western Zone TACC for 2023 was reduced by 28 t to 311.5 t1 from a total allowable commercial catch (TACC) of 794.5 t2.

The major part of the effort is in the Otway and Franklin Bioregion..

Recreational Fishing

Game fishing craft visit Pedra Branca and other nearby islands in good weather.

Marine farming

The area is unsuitable for marine farming.

Current Protections in the Boags Bioregion

Most of the land is protected in national park or conservation area.

The Port Davey region is within a marine park, although fishing is still permitted in the outer harbour where there are only very limited netting bans.

A large Commonwealth marine parks surrounds the Mewstone, but there are no protections within the 3 NM State Waters limit.

There are limited netting bans in New River Lagoon.

[1] Tasmanian-Abalone-Assessment-2022-compressed-1.pdf (utas.edu.au)

[2]

## *Threats*

The Davey bioregion is still a wilderness, but that doesn't mean that it can escape from global and local threats. Its pristine character is fragile and easily damaged. General threats of significance are: [3]

- the spread of introduced pest species, and
- sea level rise and coastal erosion.
- Microplastics and litter (particularly damaging to seabirds).

On Harder coastlines like reef, or in the open sea,[4]

- climate change effects, ocean acidification, changes food supply, damage/changes to food availability e.g. plankton communities change, changing diseases, range extension, weather changes, extreme events,
- overfishing ,
- invasive (feral) species.
- Microplastics and litter (particularly damaging to seabirds).
- Wildlife interactions – eg. Boat strike on sea mammals.
- Disruption of behaviour e.g. seismic testing.
- Habitat damage- bottom trawling.

## *Why have marine parks*

Marine Parks protect depleted, threatened, rare, endangered, or endemic species and ecological communities and in particular to preserve habitats considered critical for the survival of such species. Some species are sensitive, with complex habitat requirements, or are vulnerable to disturbance.

They can slow down the decline of degraded ecosystems and be a focus for efforts to restore habitats. A healthier more resilient habitat is more likely to survive new threats like invasive species and climate change.

They can protect economically significant habitats like fish nursery sites, as well as habitats, species, and seascapes of importance to recreation and tourism.

They can protect geological, archaeological, historical sites, seascapes, cultural sites, and cultural practices and manage these significant sites for future generations.

They can aid in the interpretation of marine and estuarine systems for the purposes of conservation, recreation, and public education.

They provide places for research and provide reference sites for scientific studies, including sites for baseline fisheries monitoring and long-term environmental monitoring.

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[3] Based upon, A Classification of Tasmanian Estuaries and Assessment of their Conservation Significance using Ecological and Physical Attributes, Population and Land Use G.J. Edgar1, N.S. Barrett2 and D.J. Graddon3, Ocean Rescue 2000

[4] Based on media monitoring by Marine Life Magazine 2010 - 2020

*Bull kelp likes the high energy shallows, Photo Jun Zhang*

## So where would we put any new marine parks?

Scientists have been talking about more marine parks for Tasmania for a long time. The areas previously talked about were,

| | |
|---|---|
| Port Davey-Bathurst Harbour | Prof Graham Edgar. The existing Marine Park missing full protection for exposed coast habitat. |
| Telopea Point-Cox Bight | Marine Reserves 1996 Bronte Workshop, Prof. Graham Edgar recommendation, Tasmanian Fisheries Industry Council and Tasmanian Amateur Sea fishermen's' Association (1997) |
| Maatsuyker Is | High Value Site – Nowhere else on earth report |
| Mewstone | High Value Site – Nowhere else on earth report |
| Pedra Branca | High Value Site – Nowhere else on earth report |

Not all of these areas are high priority sites for protection in a marine park.

Here are the details about those proposals:

## Port Davey protection re-evaluation - Outer Harbour

Special features of the Davey Bioregion

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| low nutrient levels estuary and distinct layering ('stratification') due to dark tannin-stained surface waters | ✓ |
| Harbour fish communities are dominated by sharks, skates, and rays | |
| An exposed coast extension of the tannin estuary system occurs in part of Port Davey forming a unique 'overlap' zone with clearer water | ✓ |
| high wave energy waters | ✓ |
| Shallow inlets | ✓ |
| Tasmania's southern-most offshore island have Antarctic influence | |
| Distinct Subtidal communities | ✓ |
| Endangered Humpback and Southern Right Whales migration routes | ✓ |
| Giant Kelp communities | ✓ |
| geoheritage sites, unique coastal landforms | ✓ |
| Numerous small islands important for seals and seabirds | ✓ |
| Low fish diversity | ✓ |
| Distinct algal flora | ✓ |

Whilst not of glacial origin, it has many characteristics of fjords, including a shallow entrance, deep channel connecting an almost land-locked harbour to the sea, and unique populations of endemic sessile invertebrates. Its unusual physical attributes include possibly the lowest recorded nutrient levels for any temperate estuary worldwide, and distinct layering ('stratification') due to dark tannin-stained surface waters overlying clear marine waters and preventing light penetration to depth."

"Many species vary in their depth distribution along the estuarine cline, for example foliose algae reach 20 m depth in Port Davey, 5 m depth at the western entrance of Bathurst Channel, but do not penetrate below 1 m depth in eastern Bathurst Channel. The estuary includes a high number of endemic fish and invertebrates, such as the Endangered Maugean Skate found only

in Bathurst Harbour and one other west coast estuary, and is the only Australian estuary with a fish species not recorded elsewhere (a cusk-eel, *Microbrotula*). Fish communities are dominated by sharks, skates, and rays more common in deep offshore waters rather than the usual mixture of wrasses, leatherjackets, and other common coastal reef fish. The dark waters of Bathurst Channel experience strong currents, providing ideal conditions for filter feeding invertebrates which provide a magnificent display of more than 500 delicate species, many usually found in water depths of 60-220 m as opposed to 5-12 m in this channel. Their presence on such a large scale is unique to the nearshore environment of Australia and includes soft coral species found no-where else as well as large numbers of the iconic sea pens. "

[in the area for extension] "An exposed coast extension of the tannin estuary system occurs in part of Port Davey forming a unique 'overlap' zone with clearer, high wave energy waters. Shallow inlets in this area, and particularly Kelly Basin, are of high conservation value due to their diverse habitats and pristine status. They contain the only seagrass beds and nursery habitats in the Davey Bioregion, as well as unusual algal beds, very high mollusc densities, and foraging habitats for resident shorebirds. The small islands of Port Davey are important for seabirds and support internationally significant numbers …"

Known Threats

As a pristine wilderness the main human impact is commercial fishing. Despite being in an MPA this is the only threat it is not protected against.

Current protection

IUCN IV zone open to fishing.

Current human uses

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Economic Interests | -Existing or potential contribution to economic value by virtue of its protection, eg. for recreation or tourism, or as a refuge or nursery area, or source of supply for economically important species.<br><br>- Current or potential use for the extraction of, or exploration for resources<br><br>- Current or potential use for the extraction of, or exploration for resources<br><br>- Importance for shipping and/or trade.<br><br>- Value due to its contribution to local or regional employment and economic development. | Moderate fishing impacts. |
| Indigenous Interests | -Traditional usage and/or current economic value. Contains indigenous cultural values. Native title considerations | No significant adverse impact, subject to further consultation. |

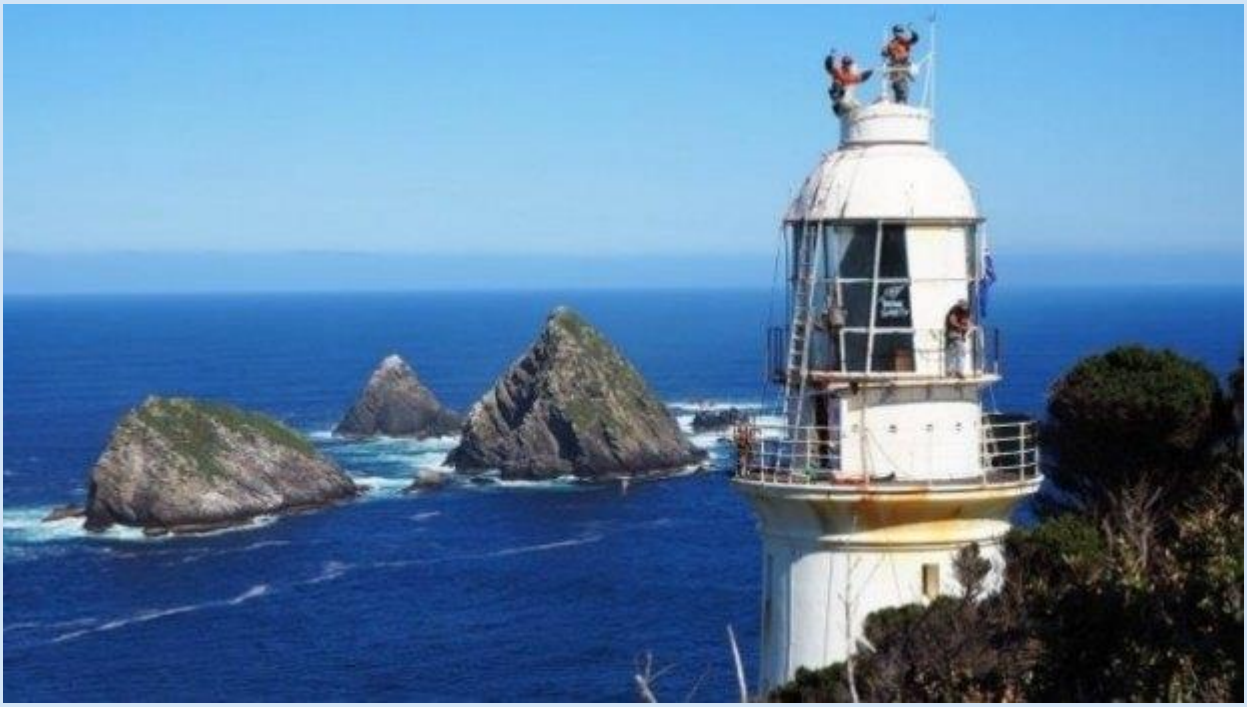
| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Social Interests | Existing or potential value to the local, national, or international communities because of its heritage, cultural, traditional, aesthetic, educational, recreational, or economic values | Presently little used or recognised. |
| Scientific Interests | Existing or potential value for research and monitoring. | High |
| Practicality/Feasibility | Degree of insulation from external destructive influences<br><br>Social and political acceptability, and a degree of community support<br><br>Access for recreation, tourism, and education<br><br>Lends itself to practical management (cost effectiveness, compliance etc.). | Remote |
| Vulnerability Assessment | Extent to which the site is vulnerable and susceptible to human induced changes and threatening processes. | Vulnerable |
| Replication | Provides a replication of ecosystems within a Marine Protected Area within the bioregion. | Enhances existing MPA |

Design Notes

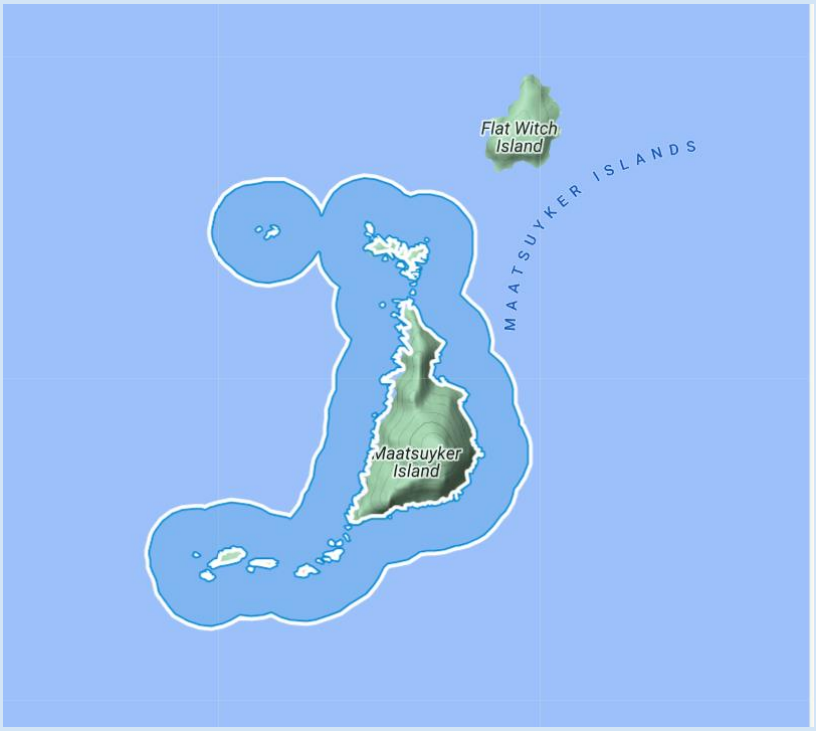
Recommended Protection

IUCN II national Park

# Maatsuyker Island



*Parks and Wildlife Tasmania*



Special Features of the Site

High Value Site – Maatsuyker Island Maatsuyker is a jagged rocky island that rises steeply from the sea to an altitude of 278 m and is the home of Australia's southern-most constructed landmark, the Maatsuyker Island Lighthouse. It incorporates a group of pyramid-shaped rocks known as the Needles that also rise steeply from sea, while its spectacular coast includes many gulches and subterranean caves. Maatsuyker Island is a marine wildlife 'jewel' that supports large populations of seals and seabirds, including Threatened species not recorded elsewhere in Tasmania. It forms the primary Tasmanian breeding site for the Rare New Zealand Fur Seal, a haul-out site for Australian Fur Seals, and produces small numbers of Endangered Southern Elephant Seal pups94. It therefore represents the only current Australian breeding area for the latter species outside subantarctic islands. Subtidal reefs include forests of the ecologically important Giant Kelp, and the sight of fur seals swimming gracefully amongst these forests provides one of the most magical diving experiences in Tasmania. Maatsuyker and surrounding islands support internationally significant (i.e. > 1% of total population) numbers of Short-tailed Shearwaters (about 1.5 million pairs), Fairy Prions and Black-faced Cormorants, as well as thousands of pairs of Common Diving-Petrels and Little Penguins. A small breeding colony of the Endangered Soft-plumaged Petrel discovered in 2004 represents the first recorded breeding occurrence of this species in Australia. Endangered Humpback and Southern Right Whales pass Maatsuyker Island during their annual migrations and can be sighted from the island, while large pods of more than 300 Common Dolphins have been observed off the Needles and southern coast.

Special features of the Davey Bioregion at the site

| | |
|---|---|
| unique and complex drowned river valleys | |
| only large estuarine system in southern Australia without significant human impact | ✓ |
| unique populations of endemic sessile invertebrates | |
| low nutrient levels estuary and distinct layering ('stratification') due to dark tannin-stained surface waters | |
| Harbour fish communities are dominated by sharks, skates and rays | |
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| Endangered Humpback and Southern Right Whales migration routes | ✓ |
| Giant Kelp communities | ✓ |
| geoheritage sites, unique coastal landforms | ✓ |

| | |
|---|---|
| Numerous small islands important for seals and seabirds | ✓ |
| Low fish diversity | ✓ |
| Distinct algal flora | ✓ |

Known Threats

As a pristine wilderness the main human impact is commercial fishing, litter, and disruption of normal animal behaviour by fishing and other activities.

Current protection

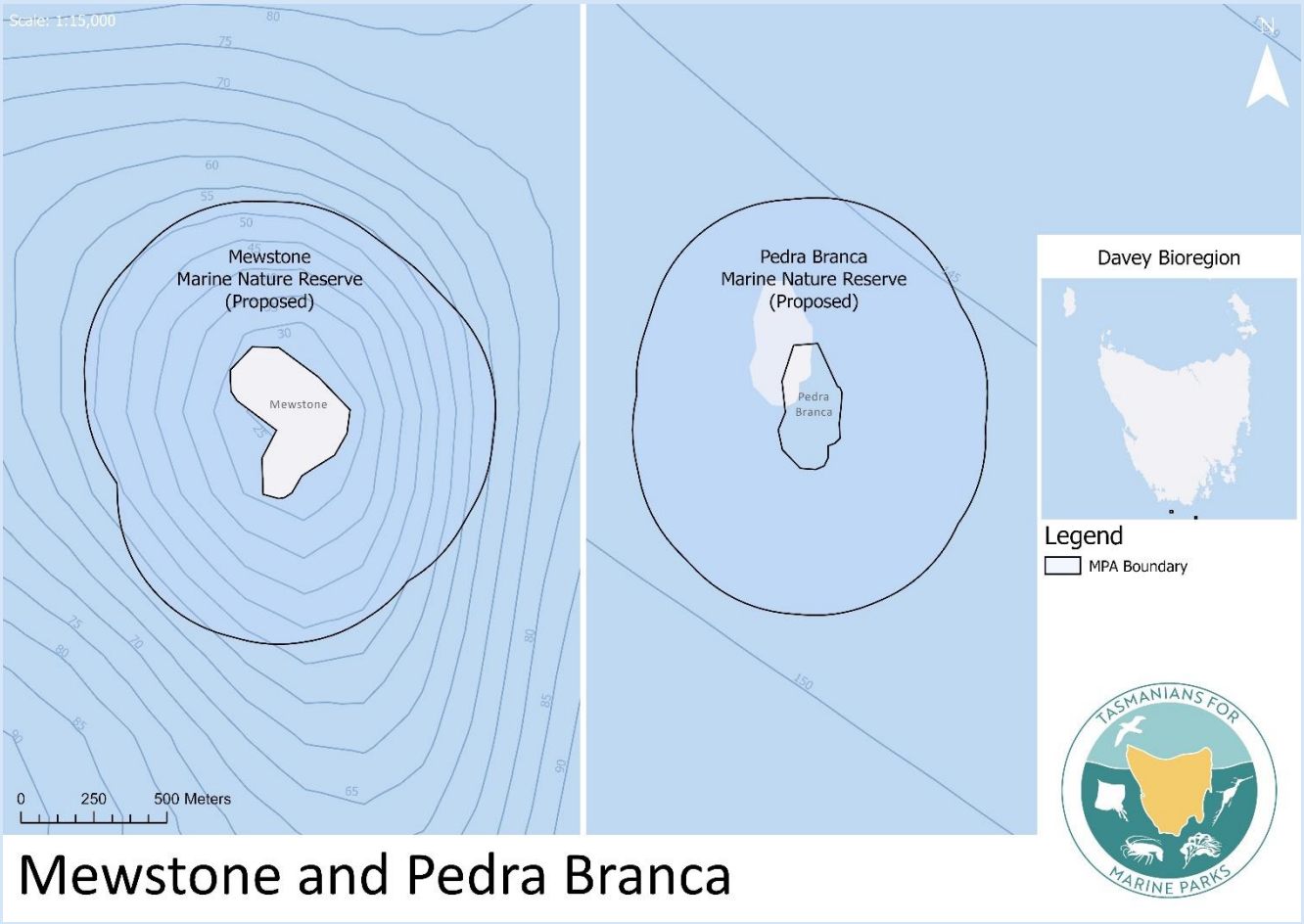
The islands are part of the South West National Park, but protection does not extend below low water mark.

Current human uses

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Economic Interests | -Existing or potential contribution to economic value by virtue of its protection, eg. for recreation or tourism, or as a refuge or nursery area, or source of supply for economically important species.<br><br>- Current or potential use for the extraction of, or exploration for resources<br><br>- Current or potential use for the extraction of, or exploration for resources<br><br>- Importance for shipping and/or trade.<br><br>- Value due to its contribution to local or regional employment and economic development. | Likely moderate commercial fishing impacts. |
| Indigenous Interests | -Traditional usage and/or current economic value. Contains indigenous cultural values. Native title considerations | No significant adverse impact, subject to further consultation. |
| Social Interests | Existing or potential value to the local, national, or international communities because of its heritage, cultural, traditional, aesthetic, educational, recreational, or economic values | Presently little used or recognised. |
| Scientific Interests | Existing or potential value for research and monitoring. | High |
| Practicality/Feasibility | Degree of insulation from external destructive influences. Social and political acceptability, and a degree of community support. Access for recreation, tourism, and education. Lends itself to practical management (cost effectiveness, compliance etc.). | Remote |
| Vulnerability Assessment | Extent to which the site is vulnerable and susceptible to human induced changes and threatening processes. | Vulnerable |
| Replication | Provides a replication of ecosystems within a Marine Protected Area within the bioregion. | Enhances single MPA in bioregion |

Recommended Protection

IUCN II National Park




# Mewstone and Pedra Branca

## The Mewstone

Special Features of the Site

High Value Sites – Mewstone and Pedra Branca While many of the offshore islands of the Davey Bioregion have high conservation values for seabirds and other marine life, Mewstone and Pedra Branca are unique in providing two of only three breeding colonies for our endemic and Vulnerable Shy Albatross and hence are listed nationally as Critical Habitat. Both are very remote and free of predators, making them safe refuges for many thousands of seabirds. Mewstone supports the largest known Shy Albatross breeding colony (7,500 breeding pairs = 60% of total species numbers), while Pedra Branca supports just 250 breeding pairs, due primarily to competition for nesting space with the 6,000-8,000 Australasian Gannets that occur there. The gannet populations at Pedra Branca and the nearby Eddystone Rock represent two of only three breeding colonies for this species in Tasmania. The seabirds at Pedra Branca provide food in the form of regurgitated fishes that allows a lizard species, the Pedra Branca Skink, to survive only on this single small rocky island. Mewstone also supports an estimated 20,000 pairs of Fairy Prions, while the Rare New Zealand Fur Zeal is a visitor to Pedra Branca, and both islands provide regular haul-outs for Australian Fur Seals. Limited study of subtidal marine environments around Tasmania's wild, southerly offshore islands (Pedra Branca is Tasmania's southern-most offshore island with the exception of subantarctic Macquarie Island), suggests a considerable Antarctic influence on the basis of different algal depth distributions and species composition. Subtidal communities around the most southern islands of the Davey Bioregion may therefore be distinct from those at other Tasmanian sites.

*Dr Eric Woehler*

Special features of the Davey Bioregion at the site

| | |
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| unique and complex drowned river valleys | |
| only large estuarine system in southern Australia without significant human impact | |
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| An exposed coast extension of the tannin estuary system occurs in part of Port Davey forming a unique 'overlap' zone with clearer water | |
| high wave energy waters | ✓ |
| Shallow inlets | |
| Tasmania's southern-most offshore island have Antarctic influence | ✓ |
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| Endangered Humpback and Southern Right Whales migration routes | ✓ |

| | |
|---|---|
| Giant Kelp communities | ✓ |
| geoheritage sites, unique coastal landforms | ✓ |
| Numerous small islands important for seals and seabirds | ✓ |
| Low fish diversity | ✓ |
| Distinct algal flora | ✓ |

Known Threats

This is a vulnerable seabird site with particular vulnerability to disruptive wildlife interactions such as plastics, gear entanglement, and fishing activity. It has threats similar to Albatross Island, the northern breeding colony, "The potential of Albatross Island for wildlife tourism ventures, its popularity as a destination for fishers, recreational boat users and sea kayakers and its attraction for researchers makes it particularly vulnerable. Human visitation not only increases the risk of disturbance to the shy albatross and other resident seabirds, it also greatly enhances the risk of fire, weeds, and feral pests, which could destroy the values of the reserve. An escaped camping fire, for example, burnt 20ha in the north of the island in February 1982, killing hundreds of seabirds.

Because there is currently no monitoring in place, it is difficult to gauge the number of visitors to this and other islands. A permit system is a mechanism to provide this information, which in time, may contribute to the determination of sustainable visitor levels.

• An avian pox virus transmitted by fleas (*Parapsyllus australiacus*) is a major cause of chick mortality and decline (N. Brothers pers comm). Tick infestation of albatross chicks also causes weakness and possible death.

• Noise from fishing activity close to ]…[the Island has the potential to disrupt the breeding patterns of … breeding seabirds …(Giese, 1997). "5

Current protection

The Mewstone is in a pocket of unprotected ocean surrounded by a A large Commonwealth marine park. There are no protections within the 3 NM State Waters limit.

[5] Bass Strait Island Nature Reserves - Draft Management Plan, October 2000

Current human uses

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Economic Interests | -Existing or potential contribution to economic value by virtue of its protection, eg. for recreation or tourism, or as a refuge or nursery area, or source of supply for economically important species.<br><br>- Current or potential use for the extraction of, or exploration for resources<br><br>- Current or potential use for the extraction of, or exploration for resources<br><br>- Importance for shipping and/or trade.<br><br>- Value due to its contribution to local or regional employment and economic development. | An area of moderate impact on current users even if highly protected. |
| Indigenous Interests | -Traditional usage and/or current economic value. Contains indigenous cultural values. Native title considerations | No significant adverse impact, subject to further consultation. |
| Social Interests | Existing or potential value to the local, national, or international communities because of its heritage, cultural, traditional, aesthetic, educational, recreational, or economic values | Presently little used or recognised. |
| Scientific Interests | Existing or potential value for research and monitoring. | High |
| Practicality/Feasibility | Degree of insulation from external destructive influences<br><br>Social and political acceptability, and a degree of community support<br><br>Access for recreation, tourism, and education<br><br>Lends itself to practical management (cost effectiveness, compliance etc.). | Remote |
| Vulnerability Assessment | Extent to which the site is vulnerable and susceptible to human induced changes and threatening processes. | Vulnerable |
| Replication | Provides a replication of ecosystems within a Marine Protected Area within the bioregion. | Bird values are unique |

Recommended Protection

IUCN II national Park

## Pedra Branca

Special Features of the Site

High Value Sites – Mewstone and Pedra Branca
While many of the offshore islands of the Davey Bioregion have high conservation values for seabirds and other marine life, Mewstone and Pedra Branca are unique in providing two of only three breeding colonies for our endemic and Vulnerable Shy Albatross and hence are listed nationally as Critical Habitat. Both are very remote and free of predators68, making them safe refuges for many thousands of seabirds. Mewstone supports the largest known Shy Albatross breeding colony (7,500 breeding pairs = 60% of total species numbers), while Pedra Branca supports just 250 breeding pairs, due primarily to competition for nesting space with the 6,000-8,000 Australasian Gannets that occur there96. The gannet populations at Pedra Branca and the nearby Eddystone Rock represent two of only three breeding colonies for this species in Tasmania. The seabirds at Pedra Branca provide food in the form of regurgitated fishes that allows a lizard species, the Pedra Branca Skink, to survive only on this single small rocky island. Mewstone also supports an estimated 20,000 pairs of Fairy Prions, while the Rare New Zealand Fur Zeal is a visitor to Pedra Branca, and both islands provide regular haul-outs for Australian Fur Seals36. Limited study of subtidal marine environments around Tasmania's wild, southerly offshore islands (Pedra Branca is Tasmania's southern-most offshore island with the exception of subantarctic Macquarie Island), suggests a considerable Antarctic influence on the basis of different algal depth distributions and species composition. Subtidal communities around the most southern islands of the Davey Bioregion may therefore be distinct from those at other Tasmanian sites.

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| high wave energy waters | ✓ |
| Shallow inlets | ✓ |
| Tasmania's southern-most offshore island have Antarctic influence | ✓ |

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| Distinct Subtidal communities | ✓ |
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| Giant Kelp communities | ✓ |
| geoheritage sites, unique coastal landforms | ✓ |
| Numerous small islands important for seals and seabirds | ✓ |
| Low fish diversity | ✓ |
| Distinct algal flora | ✓ |

*Photo: Eric Woehler*

Known Threats

This is a vulnerable seabird site with particular vulnerability to disruptive wildlife interactions such as plastics, gear entanglement, and fishing activity.

It has similar threats to the other bird breeding sites like Albatross Island, "The potential of … Island for wildlife tourism ventures, its popularity as a destination for fishers, recreational boat users and sea kayakers and its attraction for researchers makes it particularly vulnerable. Human visitation not only increases the risk of disturbance to the shy albatross and other resident seabirds, it also greatly enhances the risk of fire, weeds, and feral pests, which could destroy the values of the reserve. An escaped camping fire, for example, burnt 20ha in the north of the island in February 1982, killing hundreds of seabirds [this island is virtually free of vegetation].

Because there is currently no monitoring in place, it is difficult to gauge the number of visitors to this and other islands. A permit system is a mechanism to provide this information, which in time, may contribute to the determination of sustainable visitor levels.

• An avian pox virus transmitted by fleas *(Parapsyllus australiacus)* is a major cause of chick mortality and decline (N. Brothers pers comm). Tick infestation of albatross chicks also causes weakness and possible death.

• Noise from fishing activity close to …[the] Island has the potential to disrupt the breeding patterns of the shy albatross and other breeding seabirds such as little penguins and fairy prions (Giese, 1997). "6

Current protection

Limited in marine areas.

Current human uses

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Economic Interests | -Existing or potential contribution to economic value by virtue of its protection, eg. for recreation or tourism, or as a refuge or nursery area, or source of supply for economically important species.<br><br>- Current or potential use for the extraction of, or exploration for resources<br><br>- Current or potential use for the extraction of, or exploration for resources | An area of low impact on current users even if highly protected. May effect some avid game fishermen. |

[6] Bass Strait Island Nature Reserves - Draft Management Plan, October 2000

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | - Importance for shipping and/or trade.<br><br>- Value due to its contribution to local or regional employment and economic development. | |
| Indigenous Interests | -Traditional usage and/or current economic value. Contains indigenous cultural values. Native title considerations | No significant adverse impact, subject to further consultation. |
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| Practicality/Feasibility | Degree of insulation from external destructive influences<br><br>Social and political acceptability, and a degree of community support<br><br>Access for recreation, tourism, and education<br><br>Lends itself to practical management (cost effectiveness, compliance etc.). | Remote |
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| Replication | Provides a replication of ecosystems within a Marine Protected Area within the bioregion. | values are unique |

Recommended Protection

IUCN II national Park

*Identification Criteria (from Tasmania's MPA Strategy)*

| Criteria | Description of criteria |
|---|---|
| Comprehensiveness | -Adds to the coverage of the full range of ecosystems recognised at an appropriate scale within and across each bioregion.<br>-Enhances the comprehensive nature of the Representative System of Marine Protected Areas in Tasmania. |
| Adequacy | The size of the area, its boundaries and location are adequate to ensure that its biological and ecological values can be protected and managed and the impact of activities can be minimised. |
| Representativeness | -Represents one or more ecosystems within an Interim Marine and Coastal Regionalisation of Australia bioregion.<br>-Enhances the representative nature of the Representative System of Marine Protected Areas in Tasmania. |
| Ecological Importance | -Contributes to maintenance of essential ecological processes or life-support systems.<br>-Contains habitat for rare or endangered species.<br>- Preserves genetic diversity, ie. is diverse or abundant in species.<br>-Contains areas on which other species or other systems are dependent, eg. contain nursery or juvenile areas or feeding, breeding or rest areas for migratory species.<br>-Contains one or more areas which are a biologically functional, self-sustaining ecological unit. International or National Significance.<br>-Is listed, or has the potential to be listed, on the World or National Heritage List or declared as Biosphere Reserve or subject to an international or national conservation agreement |
| Uniqueness | -Contains unique species, populations, communities, or ecosystems.<br>- Contains unique or unusual geographic features |
| Productivity | Do the species, populations, or communities of the area have a high natural productivity |
| Vulnerability Assessment | Contains ecosystems and/or communities vulnerable to natural processes. |
| Biogeographic Importance | Captures important biogeographical qualities. |
| Naturalness | Extent to which the area has been protected from, or not been subject to, human-induced change |

All of the above sites met the identification criteria except one.

| | |
|---|---|
| Telopea Point-Cox Bight | Marine Reserves 1996 Bronte Workshop, Prof. Graham Edgar recommendation, Tasmanian Fisheries Industry Council and Tasmanian Amateur Sea Fishermens' Association (1997).<br><br>Values appear to be intertidal areas, inland lagoons and dunes that are currently within the existing Southwest National Park which is declared to the low water mark. The relevant area is already an IUCN II national park. |

*Hooded Plover chick, Photo: Dr Eric Woehler*

## Who are We?

Marine Life Network (MLN) are ordinary people who volunteer their time to help protect and promote the wonders of Tasmania's Ocean environment. The aims of Marine Life Network are to educate and advocate.

We do anything useful for the marine environment, but our main campaign at present is a campaign called "Tasmanians for Marine Parks". This campaign is trying to create a system of comprehensive, adequate, and representative marine parks for Tasmania.

An effort has been made to recruit a broad a cross-section of the community from along the political spectrum. MLN is non-partisan, welcoming to everyone, and is not an affiliate of existing political parties.