FREYCINET BIOREGION
HIGH PRIORITY MARINE PARKS

The Hazards, Photo: M.Jacques

MARINE LIFE NETWORK

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Freycinet BioregionPlan

What is the Freycinet Bioregion

The Freycinet Bioregion encompasses the entire northern and central parts of the East Coast of Tasmania.

Special natural features of the Freycinet Bioregion

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

variable geology, iconic contrasting orange-hued granite rocks	✓
white sandy beaches and dazzling aquamarine waters	✓
approximately equal areas of rocky headlands and sandy beaches	✓
a moderate tidal range	✓
warm temperate influences, influenced by the warm East Australian Current	✓
an exposed coastline to easterly weather but relatively sheltered from the prevailing westerly winds	✓
high reef biodiversity	✓
'high profile' or structurally complex reef	✓
biological communities are highly variable, with many fish and other species present in the northern section that are absent from the south.	✓
numerous coastal lagoons including barred, low salinity estuaries or 'lagoons'	✓
north-east estuaries have rich invertebrate and fish communities	✓

What Scientists have said about the natural values of the bioregion

Dr Karen Parsons –

Tasmania's beautiful east coast, renowned for its contrasting orange-hued granite rocks, white sandy beaches and dazzling aquamarine waters, falls within the Freycinet Bioregion named after its most prominent coastal feature, the Freycinet Peninsula. The spectacular coastal scenery of this region has received international attention, with the breathtaking Wineglass Bay and Bay of Fires voted as amongst the best beaches in the world. This bioregion is characterised by warm temperate influences, a moderate tidal range, an exposed coastline with approximately equal areas of rocky headlands and sandy beaches, and numerous coastal lagoons. Maria Island on the central coast has recorded the highest reef biodiversity in Tasmania6 , while the north-east estuaries have rich invertebrate and fish communities14. The geology of the region is variable, dominated by Carboniferous granite in the north and Jurassic dolerite to the south16, with Schouten Island-Freycinet Peninsula recording the greatest proportion of 'high profile' or structurally complex reef in Tasmania. The Freycinet Bioregion has two Marine Protected Areas, Governor Island at Bicheno and Maria Island, with a combined size of 15.6 km2 – two thirds of which is fully protected as 'no take'. This bioregion is influenced by the warm East Australian Current (EAC), particularly on the north east coast. As a result, biological communities are highly variable, with many fish and other species present in the northern section but absent from the south. These include warm temperate species that are common in NSW such as the White-ear Scalyfin and Eastern Rock Blackfish, as well as the Hollow-spined Urchin (*Centrostephanus rodgersii*), Giant Rock Barnacle (*Austromegabalanus nigrescens*) and Eastern King Prawn (*Penaeus plebejus*). Some fish species found here also occur in the Furneaux Group, but cannot be seen anywhere else around the Tasmanian mainland coast. The Freycinet Bioregion also contains some very rare habitats for marine species, such as the Native Flat Oyster which was very abundant in southern Australia prior to 19th century harvesting. The region is significant in supporting the most northerly forests of the Giant Kelp (*Macrocystis pyrifera*), a cold-water species that forms major beds along the Tasmanian east and south-east coasts. Barred, low salinity estuaries or 'lagoons' are highly characteristic of this region, with 14 of these sheltered waterbodies recorded along the east coast, including some that are intermittently closed to the sea. These lagoons and adjacent beach habitats are important for migratory shorebirds, particularly Greenshank, Ruddy Turnstone, Double-banded Plover, Red-necked Stint, Pacific Golden Plover, and Sanderling.

The area is frequented by Common and Bottlenose Dolphins and forms part of the migratory path for Humpback and Southern Right Whales, as they move from the Southern Ocean feeding grounds to warmer waters for breeding. The substantial areas of shallow and relatively warm water provide shelter and a rich food source for the Southern Right Whale and dolphins. The Southern Right Whale was hunted to near extinction, but recent evidence suggests that Great Oyster Bay is

developing into one of two important calving and mating grounds for Southern Right Whales in the State. Since 1980 the number of sightings in Spring Bay has been increasing, and in 1989 a whale stayed for several days in the Shelley Beach area and a birth was reported at Reidle Bay. Increased boat traffic may have some effect on larger whales if the whale populations increase to levels seen in other areas of recovery.

Bioregion Social and economic factors

In the south of the bioregion, the Glamorgan-Spring Bay local government area had a population of approximately 5000 people in 2021. There are 3700 jobs, 13.1% work in agriculture, forestry and fishing. The population is relatively older with 1000 people on an age pension. In the northern half of the bioregion, the Break O'Day local government area has a population of closer to 7000 with 1400 on an age pension. 11% of jobs are in agriculture, forestry and fishing[1],

According to marine farming economic reports, "As in many other parts of rural Tasmania there has been a decline in the traditional activities of fishing, forestry and agriculture, with a significant decline in the number of farms and the area being farmed. For example, during the twelve year period 1981-93 the number of farms decreased by 181"[2]

Whilst Orford and Swansea have experienced some population growth, the decline in Triabunna's population can be attributed to a general recession that has strongly affected the base primary industries of agriculture and fishing. However, there has also been a decline in the associated manufacturing sector of value adding, and secondary processing.[3]

"It is interesting to note that both sectors experienced marked declines, whilst in the same period the total number of persons employed in the Glamorgan Spring Bay Local Government Area also declined from 768 in 1986 to 606 in 1991, a decrease of some 21%. However, there has been an increase in the number of persons employed within the hospitality and associated services sector, as there is now an increasing emphasis and focus on tourism, ecotourism and tourist related activities. It is likely that the 1996 census will confirm these trends following detailed analysis of the data."[4]

Commercial fishing

"The waters of Great Oyster Bay and Mercury Passage continue to support significant commercial and recreational fisheries although some fisheries have declined significantly in recent decades. Declines in the lobster and scallop fisheries have been particularly pronounced while other fisheries such as abalone continue to perform well, and more recent developments such as live fish fishing and squid have become important to the area. The inability of primary industries to expand has resulted in the area relying heavily on the tourism industry."[5] Commercial rock

[1] Glamorgan-Spring Bay | Region summary | Data by region | Australian Bureau of Statistics (abs.gov.au)
[2] GREAT OYSTER BAY AND MERCURY PASSAGE MARINE FARMING DEVELOPMENT PLAN OCTOBER 1998 (REVIEWED NOVEMBER 2007) (MODIFIED 17 MAY 2010) Draft Of Great Oyster Bay Plan (Nre.Tas.Gov.Au)

[3] GREAT OYSTER BAY AND MERCURY PASSAGE MARINE FARMING DEVELOPMENT PLAN OCTOBER 1998 (REVIEWED NOVEMBER 2007) (MODIFIED 17 MAY 2010) Draft Of Great Oyster Bay Plan (Nre.Tas.Gov.Au)
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[5] GREAT OYSTER BAY AND MERCURY PASSAGE MARINE FARMING DEVELOPMENT PLAN OCTOBER 1998 (REVIEWED NOVEMBER 2007) (MODIFIED 17 MAY 2010) Draft Of Great Oyster Bay Plan (Nre.Tas.Gov.Au)

lobster harvests were little managed until March 1998 when a quota management system was introduced.

In the late 2000s there was a record low recruitment event which led to an abrupt decline in stock. In the 2017/18 season 194 licensed vessels an ongoing decrease from almost 300 vessels since the 1998/99 season. Currently we have the lowest commercial catch since the 1950s. Regional management measures have been introduced, including the east coast stock rebuilding strategy Area 3 (the NE) produced only 34 tonnes of crayfish in 2020.

The southern part of the East Coast (Area 2) only produced 57 tonnes. There is a catch cap for the East Coast of 94 tonnes, to encourage stock rebuilding.

"The East Coast Stock status remains 'poor' and reports admit that a 20% biomass target for the East Coast Stock Rebuilding Strategy will not be reached by the deadline in Area 2. The report names the causes as growing fishing effort and environmental factors causing stock declines.

[Freycinet bioregion is blocks 24-31] A pattern of reduced sub-legal abalone abundance is consistent with reduced recruitment associated with reduced abundance including from the 2016 Marine Heat Wave event. The abalone catch is mostly from the Bruny Bioregion. The Eastern Zone TACC continues to be highly reliant on Block 13 with more than 60% of the TACC harvested from this single Block. [Actaeon Island]. The recommended Eastern Zone TACC for 2023 increased by 3.5 t to 227.5 t.6 from a total allowable commercial catch (TACC) of 794.5 t

Recreational Fishing

Recreational fishing is concentrated around those areas with easy access. Boat ramps and access points are located at Point Meredith, Swansea, Coles Bay, Swanwick, Saltworks, Orford, Louisville, Triabunna and Little Swanport.

The favoured soft bottom species are flathead, whiting, perch and flounder. There are several estuaries, including Great Swanport and Little Swanport, where fishing for bream and flounder is popular. Squid are often caught in the shallow waters of sheltered bays and crayfish, abalone and scallops are also eagerly sought by recreational fishers.

There has been very heavy fishing pressure on the East Coast of Tasmania. The area is very popular with recreational fishermen, especially over the summer months. East Coast (areas 1-3) have seen far greater exploitation and require regional management to ensure sustainable populations.

Residents from Launceston and North East statistical area were the main contributors to the East coast region fishing. effort (58%). In the Central East coast fishing effort by Launceston and North East (38%) and Hobart (35%) residents

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

exceeded that of local residents (19%). Line, dive and pot fishing methods were the main activities in the region.

The data indicates that recreational fishing is having a significant impact in this area and is not sustainable.

"… despite recent management changes (reduced bag limit and shorter season), current management settings alone are not sufficient to effectively constrain recreational catches to target levels..."[7]

"In fact, since a recreational catch target was introduced for the rebuilding zone, the only other seasons when target levels were not exceeded (2015-16 and 2017-18) were those also impacted by external factors (biotoxin closures) that resulted in marked reductions in recreational fishing effort ..."[8]

The long-term prognosis is poor, "Warmer waters, such as will occur along the east coast of Tasmania in the future, may mean this area would be unable to support rock lobster populations of the same size as found today"[9].

Tourism

Early tourist hotels and motels were based at Swansea and Orford, whilst the construction of holiday homes also became an important component of new development in all centres except Triabunna. The type of tourism targeted has changed over the past twenty years, with smaller family type holiday locations changing to attract higher spending international tourists.

"The warmer climate and proximity to areas of high natural values play a significant role in promoting and attracting tourism on the east coast". [10]

The east coast has high recreational value and is a popular destination for those undertaking activities such as sailing, boating, diving, surfing and recreational fishing. In particular, it attracts a high level of recreational use during the summer months when the local population is swollen with holiday makers.

Marine farming

There is a large shellfish farm in Mercury Passage and a salmon farm at Okehampton. There are many marine leases dotted along the coast. Originally, they were granted for varying projects, but many are now inactive.

[7] Lyle et all 2020, Rebuilding East Coast Rock Lobster Stocks: Developing an Effective Management Framework for Recovery

[8] Lyle 2020 [Covid will also explain the recent compliance with the limits just this year]

[9] Pecl 2009 section 4.3.1

[10] GREAT OYSTER BAY AND MERCURY PASSAGE MARINE FARMING DEVELOPMENT PLAN OCTOBER 1998 (REVIEWED NOVEMBER 2007) (MODIFIED 17 MAY 2010) Draft Of Great Oyster Bay Plan (Nre.Tas.Gov.Au)

Threats

The general threats of significance to low lying or soft coastlines like estuaries and beaches are: [11]

- increased siltation resulting from land clearance and urban and rural runoff,
- increased nutrient loads resulting from marine farms, sewerage and agricultural use of fertilisers,
- foreshore development, dredging, habitats clearing and reclamation
- modification to water flow through dams and weirs,
- acidification of rivers and heavy metal pollution from mines,
- the spread of introduced pest species, and
- sea level rise and coastal erosion.
- Wildlife displacement, disruption of social and feeding behaviour e.g. Beach crowding, Pet impacts[12].
- Microplastics and litter (particularly damaging to seabirds).

On Harder coastlines like reef, or in the open sea,[13]

- 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.
- pollutants., Excessive nutrients e.g. salmon farms, sewerage, stormwater.
- Silt from erosion,
- Habitat damage- dredging and bottom trawling.

Most of these threats apply in all or in part to most of the sites in the bioregion. It is an extensively developed area where fishing pressure is very heavy.

Climate change impacts are already being felt, the appearance of black urchin barrens, and the disappearance of giant kelp, has already had a profound impact on the bioregion.

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

[12] Dr Eric Woehler, pers comms

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

Current Protections in the Bioregion

There is a no fishing zone along much of the north western shore of Maria Island National Park. There is a netting ban in Great Swanport, and limited bans in the Mercury Passage further than 200 m from the low water mark. No mullet nets are allowed in Great Oyster Bay north of a line drawn from the southern extremity of Freycinet Peninsula to Seaford Point. No gummy sharks or school sharks can be taken in Great Oyster Bay north of an imaginary straight line drawn from the southern extremity of Freycinet Peninsula to Seaford Point, as well as in those waters within a distance of 3 nautical miles from any part of the east coast commencing at Seaford Point and extending to an imaginary straight line drawn from Cape Bougainville to Cape Boullanger on Maria Island. No gummy sharks or school sharks are to be taken in Mercury Passage.

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.

female Shaw's cowfish, 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,

Freycinet (East Coast - 2 existing MPAs)

Maria Island	(suggested extension of existing Marine Reserve to Booming Bay, Shoal Bay/Chinamens Bay as originally proposed by Prof Graham Edgar), plus closure of "fishing" area, suggested by marine naturalists
Mayfield Point	
Governor Island MPA/ Waubs Bay	This MPA is too small. Suggested extension Governor Island MPA e.g. to eastern Waubs Bay, by local residents. It's a popular dive and snorkelling site with a large adjacent population of little penguins. Noted for its resident seadragon population. Some angling occurs from the breakwater.

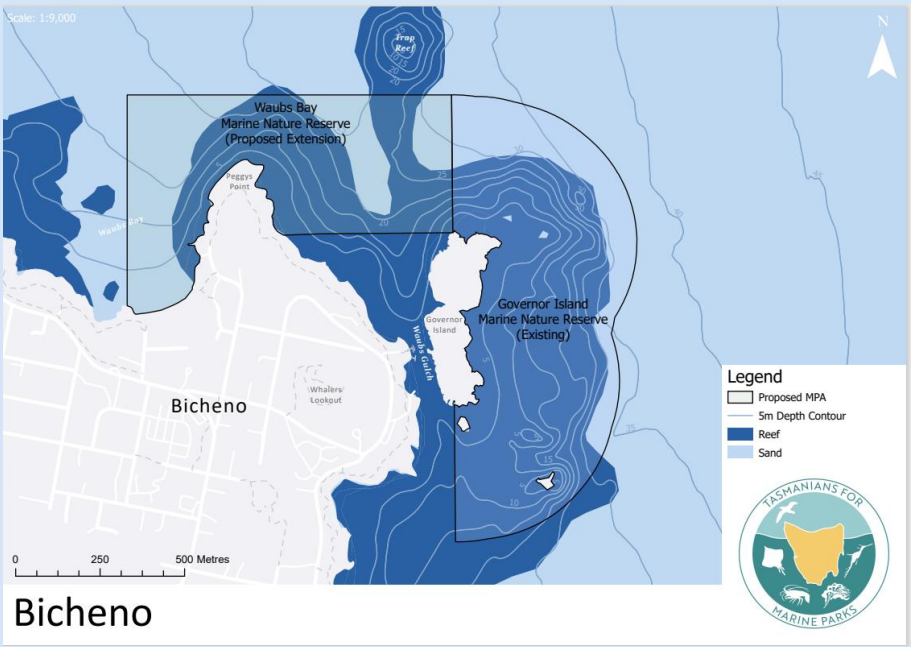
Ansons Bay larapuna /Eddystone	Significant indigenous community interest in this area.
St Helen–Binalong Bay	Many areas now heavily urchin damaged. Dr Barrett has previously suggested MPAs from Binalong township south to Grants Point [excluding boat ramp].
Moulting Lagoon	Tasmanian Fisheries Industry Council and Tasmanian Amateur Sea Fishermen's Association (1997), 1996 Bronte Workshop, Prof. Graham Edgar recommendation Overlap with hunting activity
Schouten Island and Schouten Passage	High Value Site – Nowhere else on earth report
Ile Des Phoques	High Value Site – Nowhere else on earth report Dr Parsons
Georges Bay native oyster reef	High Value Site – Nowhere else on earth report. Last surviving *angasi* flat oyster reef in Australia, when the habitat was once widespread.

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

Here are the details about those proposals:

High Value Site – Waubs Bay Extension, Governor Island MPA

Decorator crab on starfish, Photo: Jun Zhang



Special Features of the Site

Dr Karen Parsons – "Governor Island is located less than 200 m off the coast at Bicheno. Its clear deep waters provide yet another of Australia's top diving sites, with easy access to deep reefs that extend to 45 m depth and experience strong ocean currents, characteristics that are rare so close to shore. Coarse-grained granite bedrock forms large blocks and boulders, sheer vertical walls, ledges, overhangs, and deep fissures, while small caves create spectacular underwater scenery that is best viewed in winter when reduced phytoplankton growth results in visibilities often exceeding 30 m. Shallow areas of reef are dominated by kelps, while shaded and deeper areas are occupied by diverse 'sponge gardens' including sea whips, sea fans, hydroids, bryozoans, anemones, ascidians, sponges, feather stars, and basket stars. Vertical and over-hanging rock walls are covered with a brilliant mosaic of yellow zoanthids and different coloured colonies of jewel anemones. In deep sandy trenches, huge sponges crowd onto occasional boulders, while conspicuous mobile invertebrates include rock lobsters, abalone, octopus and brightly coloured sea-spiders (or 'pycnogonids') feeding amongst delicate bryozoans. Fish are also abundant, including Butterfly Perch, Longsnout Boarfish and Zebrafish, while caves are crowded with bullseyes, cardinal fish, cod and Sandpaperfish. At certain times of the year, large silver schools of the Common Jack Mackerel swirl past, sometimes hunted by schools of dolphins. Governor Island is also an important seabird rookery and contains one of Tasmania's largest breeding populations."

The original Governor Island MPA was on the seaward side of an offshore island. While it is an excellent and popular MPA its restricted access does pose an issue for shore based activities such as snorkelling, access for divers without a boat, educational and tourist activities.

The proposed extension - The southern side of Waub's Bay is particularly diverse with rocky reef, sand and seagrass in the one small area. It also boasts Split/Fish Rock, a large underwater spire that attracts fish life. The area is also the only reliable place to see seadragons, an iconic marine animal that has elsewhere declined in numbers significantly in recent decades. Divers report something new with every dive, as the site has a reputation for variety. It is patrolled most evenings by a pod of dolphins. It has also been a resting site for humpback whales at times. As it is very frequently dived, it can be easily monitored and managed, including manually cleared of invasive black urchins. This site has been requested for inclusion into the MPA by local groups for some time.

Special features of the Freycinet Bioregion contained in the site

variable geology, Iconic contrasting orange-hued granite rocks	✓

white sandy beaches and dazzling aquamarine waters	✓
approximately equal areas of rocky headlands and sandy beaches	✓
a moderate tidal range	✓
warm temperate influences, influenced by the warm East Australian Current	✓
an exposed coastline to easterly weather but relatively sheltered from the prevailing westerly winds	✓
High reef biodiversity	✓
'high profile' or structurally complex reef	✓
biological communities are highly variable, with many fish and other species present in the northern section but absent from the south.	✓
numerous coastal lagoons including barred, low salinity estuaries or 'lagoons'	
north-east estuaries have rich invertebrate and fish communities	
some very rare habitats for marine species, such as the Native Flat Oyster	✓
traditionally the most northerly forests of the Giant kelp	✓
beach habitats important for migratory shorebirds.	

Known Threats

- 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, especially black urchins.

- Microplastics and litter (particularly damaging to seabirds).
- Wildlife interactions – eg. Boat strike on sea mammals.
- Disruption of behaviour e.g. seismic testing.
- pollutants., Excessive nutrients e.g. salmon farms, sewerage, stormwater.
- Silt from erosion,
- Habitat damage- dredging and bottom trawling.

Fishing, Climate changes impacts including invasive urchins are real and present issues in the area.

Current protection

There is an existing graball and mullet netting ban in Waubs Bay.

Current human uses

The main public infrastructure in the extension area is the breakwall, fishing boat moorings and nearby fishing boat tender launching site. These existing activities are capable of being accommodated. Alternate angling sites are nearby and the Gulch jetty is already a more popular fishing platform.

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. - Current or potential use for the extraction of, or exploration for resources - Current or potential use for the extraction of, or exploration for resources - Importance for shipping and/or trade. - Value due to its contribution to local or regional employment and economic development.	An area of low impact on current users even if highly protected.
Indigenous Interests	-Traditional usage and/or current economic value. Contains indigenous	No significant adverse

	cultural values. Native title considerations	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	Often used site for recreation.
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.).	Close to well established and accepted MPA, local groups have requested the extension.
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.	Extends the MPA into different and more shallow habitat.

Design Comments

The site provides a shore access area to the MPA, protects unique habitat without having a significant impact on other users other than breakwater anglers. Alternate sites are nearby and the Gulch jetty is already a more popular fishing platform.

Recommended Protection

Extension of the existing MPA into this area as a section of IUCN Category II national Park.

Maria Island extension

Special Features of the Site

Dr Karen Parsons - The north-west coastline of Maria Island on Tasmania's central east coast form part of the beautiful Maria Island National Park and has a remarkable diversity of marine habitats within a small area (rock, sand, seagrass, kelp forest, and dolerite, siltstone, sandstone, granite and limestone reef habitats) as well as the highest diversity of reef life in the state. In Fossil Bay to the north, large submarine caverns and tunnels extend up to 40 m into the limestone cliffs, with Bull Kelp and other wave-loving kelps the most obvious plants, while the more sheltered western shore supports delicate algal species and consists of dolerite formations interspersed with cobbled and white sand beaches. Offshore, reefs support forests of the magnificent Giant Kelp, and expansive beds of seagrass cover the sandy seafloor extending into Mercury Passage.

The reefs support high abundances of Rock Lobsters and fish such as Bastard Trumpeter, Jackass and Banded morwongs, Barber Perch, and Rosy Wrasse, while fish species from the Australian mainland follow warm ocean currents to the northern end of Maria Island in summer months, and are rarely observed further south [not now the case]. Protected seahorses and Weedy Seadragons are commonly sighted, while fascinating species such as Warty Prowfish and Red Velvetfish are hidden amongst sponges and algae, and seagrass beds provide an important nursery for the Southern Calamary. The pylons of the popular jetty dive

site as well as other shaded and deeper sites support an array of colourful invertebrates including sponges, featherlike hydroids, bright zoanthids, tube worms, and jewel anemones in many different colours.

The Maria Island National Park and Ile Des Phoques Nature Reserve Management Plan 1998 recommended - "The marine environment around Maria Island National Park is a complementary and interdependent part of the terrestrial environment of the Park. However, only a small component of the marine environment around the island is included in the Park.

• Negotiate the inclusion within the Park of a full range of Maria Island's marine habitats.

• Install clear, effective, and aesthetically designed offshore marking of the marine boundary of the Park.

• Investigate the inclusion of Lachlan Island within the Park.

• Investigate extending the boundaries of the Ile des Phoques Nature Reserve to include marine areas around the island."

"The management objectives for the Zone are to:

- preserve marine species and marine ecosystems

- develop awareness and understanding of the marine and coastal environment

- consistent with the foregoing, provide for compatible recreational use. "

The no-fishing area of the Marine Zone will serve as:

- a viewing area where marine flora and fauna may be observed free from any form of interference

- a protection area for marine flora and fauna

- a reference area for scientific study

- a replenishment area which may provide recruits to repopulate other areas

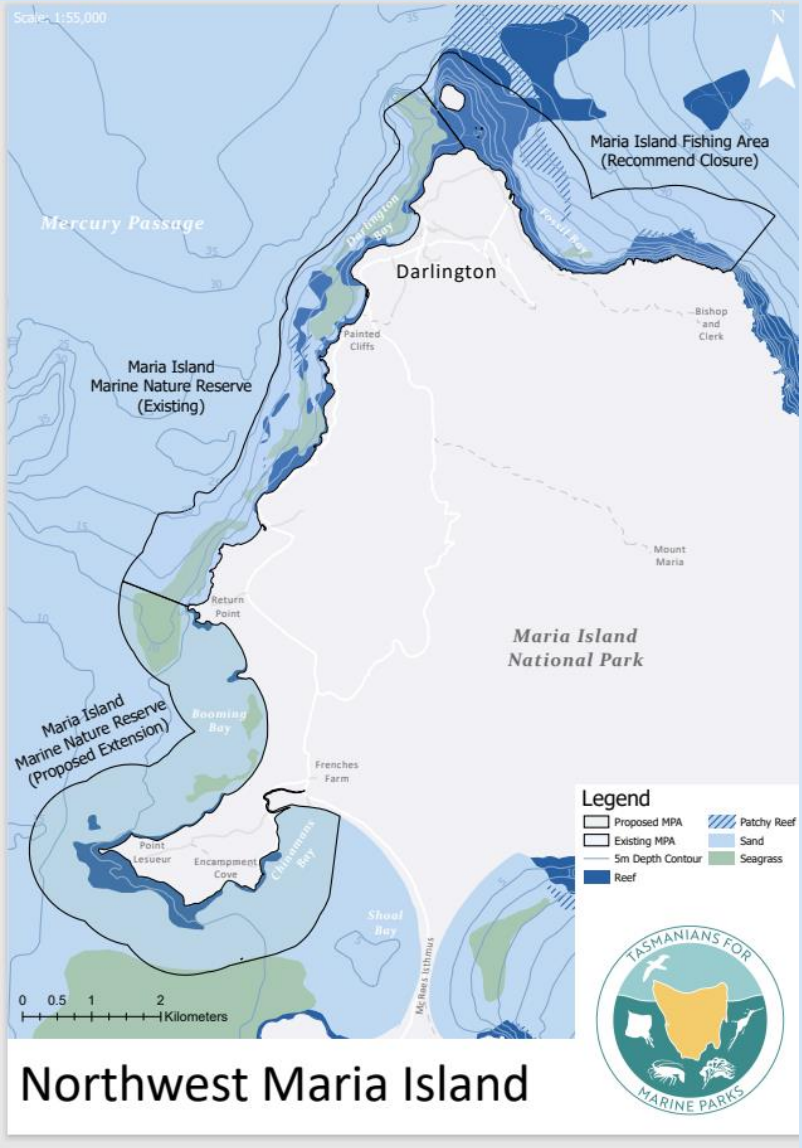
It further stated the need to "Investigate extending the no-fishing area to encompass all of the Marine Zone."

The initial proposals for Maria Island were basically only half enacted, when protests from fishermen in 1991 saw only part of the proposed area put into 'no take' and that was the area of the lowest value to fishermen. The 'no take' area particularly lacks large areas of continuous rocky reef and has large areas of coarse sand.

The proposal is to review this decision and restore the IUCN II park to its original boundaries with more no take coverage. We understand that respondents to a recent management plan review strongly supported this proposal.

Special features of the Bioregion contained in the site

variable geology, such as iconic contrasting orange-hued granite rocks	✓
white sandy beaches and dazzling aquamarine waters	✓
approximately equal areas of rocky headlands and sandy beaches	✓
a moderate tidal range	✓
warm temperate influences, influenced by the warm East Australian Current	✓
an exposed coastline to easterly weather but relatively sheltered from the prevailing westerly winds	
High reef biodiversity	✓
'high profile' or structurally complex reef	✓
biological communities are highly variable, with many fish and other species present in the northern section but absent from the south.	✓
numerous coastal lagoons including barred, low salinity estuaries or 'lagoons'	
north-east estuaries have rich invertebrate and fish communities	
some very rare habitats for marine species, such as the Native Flat Oyster	
traditionally the most northerly forests of the Giant kelp	✓
beach habitats important for migratory shorebirds.	✓



Current protection

The NW coast of Maria Island is in a no take area but the northern Fossil cliffs area is within a IUCN IV protected area. It has been largely ineffective in protecting the area's natural values.

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,	An area of low impact on current users even if highly protected. May

	or source of supply for economically important species. - Current or potential use for the extraction of, or exploration for resources - Current or potential use for the extraction of, or exploration for resources - Importance for shipping and/or trade. - Value due to its contribution to local or regional employment and economic development.	result in the loss of some crayfishing and abalone habitat.
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	High.
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 but close to a much-loved land based national park.
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.	This is the only large potential MPA in the bioregion.

Design Notes

Dr Graham Edgar –

"Although a large marine reserve exists at Maria Island, the conservation value of this reserve is much less than could be achieved if restrictions on fishing were generally applied within it. Of the area along the northern and northwestern coast of Maria Island initially recommended for protection (Edgar, 1981), the southernmost third containing extensive sheltered habitat was excluded from the reserve, while the northernmost third was included but with no protection given to the biota. Plants and animals are therefore fully protected only along the northeastern coastline from Cape Boullanger to Return Point, a relatively homogeneous section of coast that is moderately exposed throughout its length and contains only two rock strata (dolerite and sandstone). The extent of reefs within this protected zone is also very limited because rock submerges under sand in relatively shallow depths"[14]

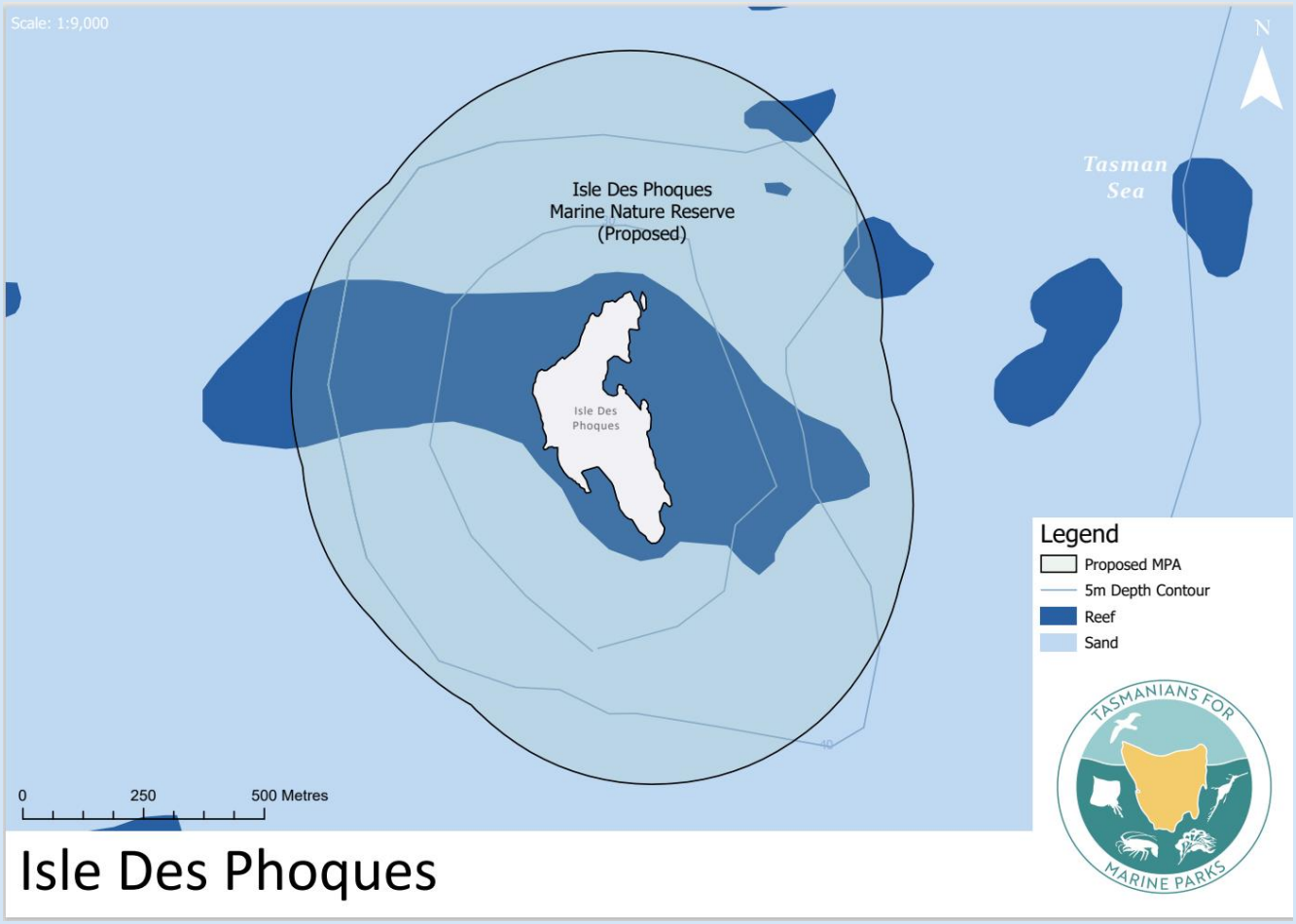
Recommended Protection

IUCN Category II national park that excludes fishing across the entire original MPA.

[14] G.J. Edgar, J. Moverley, D. Peters and C. Reed, Regional classification of Tasmanian coastal waters and preliminary identification of representative marine protected area sites, Ocean Rescue 2000

Isle De Phoques

Special Features of the Site



Dr Karen Parsons – "Ile des Phoques is a small rocky island between Maria and Schouten islands, about 20 km east of the Tasmanian mainland. It is unique in possessing numerous sea caves, some that run right through the island and are therefore distinct from the blind (i.e. one way) sea caves found elsewhere on the Tasmanian coastline. This means that there is a high water flow through the caves, providing a rich supply of plankton that sustains a diverse community of filter feeding invertebrates. The main deep cave is pitch black in the middle, and therefore provides for deepwater emergence of a range of species usually found at greater depths, including hard and soft corals and even some deepwater crustaceans such as slipper lobsters. Several caves have light entering through the roof creating stunning light effects that, combined with the brightly coloured jewel anemones and zoanthids (anemone-like animals) covering the cave, and frequent schools of fish, provide spectacular underwater scenery. The caves are considered to be of outstanding geological significance, and are quite unlike any other marine cave system in Tasmania. The eastern side of Ile des Phoques is also a regular haul-out site for Australian Fur Seals, and geological evidence suggests that it once supported a large seal breeding colony.[that colony has reestablished itself in

recent years] The island remains a breeding site for seabirds, including Little Penguins, Short-tailed Shearwaters, Fairy Prions and Common Diving-Petrels. Ecotourism activities are centred around seal watching and spectacular cave diving."

The Maria Island National Park and Ile Des Phoques Nature Reserve Management Plan 1998 stated, "Ile des Phoques is located 18.5 kilometres to the north of Maria Island, and about 11.5 kilometres south of Schouten Island. There is no public access and no facilities are provided. A charter vessel from Coles Bay sometimes visits the waters around Ile des Phoques.[this is still the case]

Ile des Phoques has cliffs rising to over 50 metres along its western shore falling to a lower shore in the east where there is easy boat landing in good weather. There is a blowhole on the eastern shore. The submarine sea caves in granite are considered of outstanding significance in Tasmania (Bradbury, 1993; Dixon, 1995).

Ile des Phoques is composed of granite. Except for the shoreline, Ile des Phoques is mantled by a siliceous skeletal soil.

Ile des Phoques Nature Reserve was reserved to protect a seal colony and sea bird nesting sites. Ile des Phoques has mutton bird *Puffinus tenuirostris* rookeries. Sea eagles *Haliaeetus leucogaster* and peregrine falcons *Falco peregrinus macropus* nest there, as do diving petrels *Pelecanoides urinatrix*, whitefaced storm petrels *Pelagodroma marina*, fairy *prion Pachyptila turtur*, and little penguins *Eudyptula minor*. Brown falcons *Falco berigora* and a swamp harrier *Circus approximans* have been sighted on the Ile and the carcass of a Fiordland penguin *Eudyptes pachyrhynchus* found. Ile des Phoques supports a small [now much larger] Australian fur seal *Arctocephalus pusillus doriferus* colony. Ile des Phoques protects seal and bird colonies and breeding areas.

To sustain the environmental and heritage character of Ile des Phoques Nature Reserve, the goals of management are to ensure, as far as practicable, the Reserve will be characterised by:

- maximum indigenous biodiversity;
- viable populations of all indigenous species;
- unfettered ecological processes;
- undisturbed physiographic features;
- unpolluted air, land and water; and
- undisturbed historic fabric and artefacts.

Public right of access will not be permitted to Ile des Phoques Nature Reserve and the Reserve is declared a restricted area by this management plan."

Special features of the Bioregion contained in the site

variable geology, Iconic contrasting orange-hued granite rocks	✓
white sandy beaches and dazzling aquamarine waters	
approximately equal areas of rocky headlands and sandy beaches	
a moderate tidal range	✓
warm temperate influences, influenced by the warm East Australian Current	✓
an exposed coastline to easterly weather but relatively sheltered from the prevailing westerly winds	✓
High reef biodiversity	✓
'high profile' or structurally complex reef	✓
biological communities are highly variable, with many fish and other species present in the northern section but absent from the south.	✓
numerous coastal lagoons including barred, low salinity estuaries or 'lagoons'	
north-east estuaries have rich invertebrate and fish communities	
some very rare habitats for marine species, such as the Native Flat Oyster	✓
traditionally the most northerly forests of the Giant kelp	
beach habitats important for migratory shorebirds.	

Known Threats

"Disturbance of wildlife on Ile des Phoques is the major threat to the values of the [land] Reserve." PWS Management Plan. The seabed is also exposed to overfishing threats.

Current protection

The island is a reserve but the waters are unprotected. The management plan originally recommended a 500 metre no netting zone around the island but this was never enacted.

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. - Current or potential use for the extraction of, or exploration for resources - Current or potential use for the extraction of, or exploration for resources - Importance for shipping and/or trade. - Value due to its contribution to local or regional employment and economic development.	An area of low impact on current users even if highly protected. May result in the loss of some crayfishing and abalone habitat.
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	High.
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 but close to land based reserve.
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.	This is the only MPA in the bioregion with this mix of geological and natural values.

Design Comments

The design needs to include an area around the island to prevent disturbance to marine life on the island and in the water.

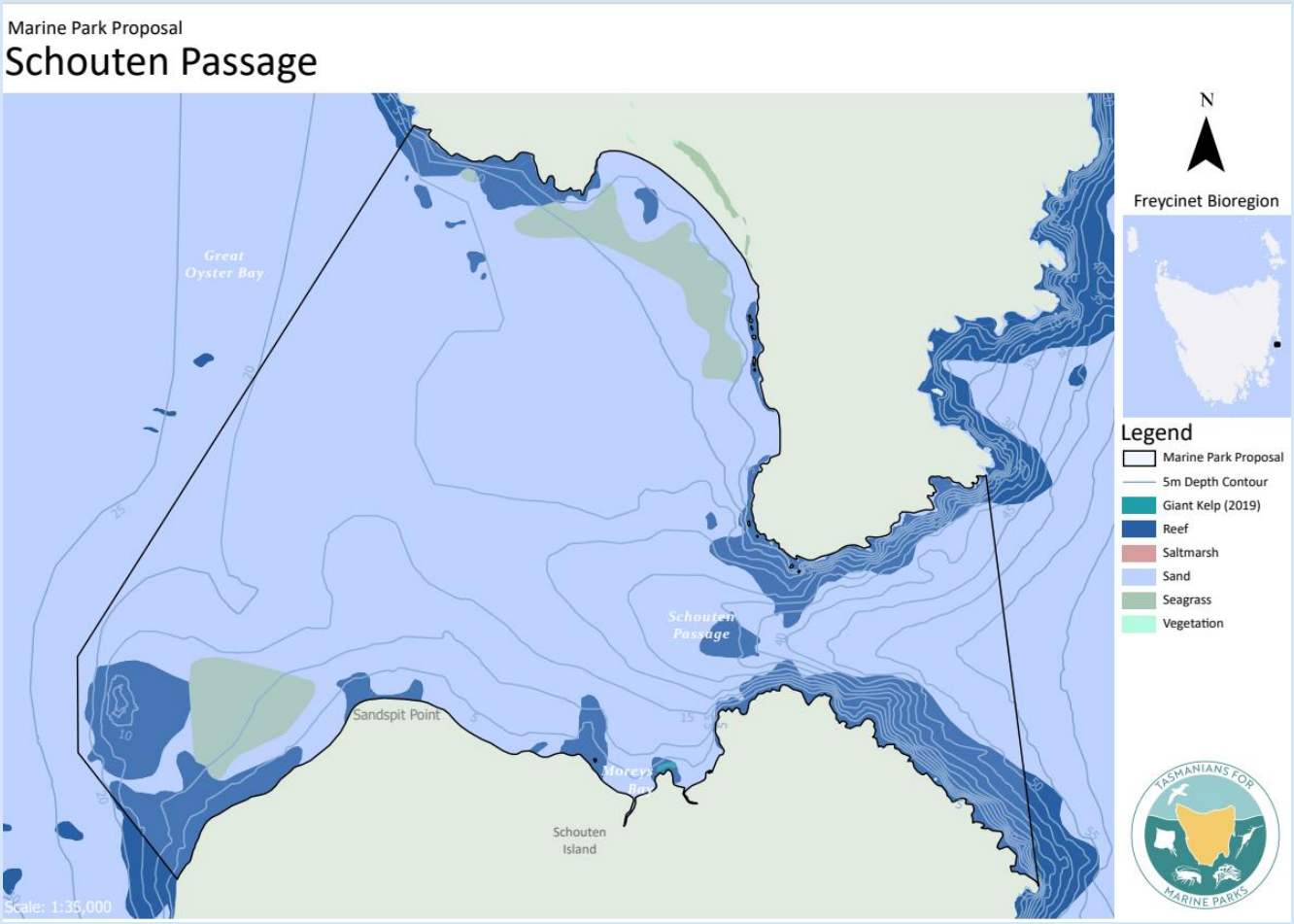
Recommended Protection

IUCN Category II national park.

SCHOUTEN ISLAND

Special Features of the Site

Dr Karen Parsons, High Value Site –"Schouten is a rugged and spectacular island surrounded by cliffs and sheltered to moderately exposed bays, and separated from the mainland by a 1.6 km wide, deep passage. A high diversity of pristine marine habitats is supplemented by highly variable geology, with a north-south fault line dividing an eastern granite component, which is similar to the north-east coast, from a western dolerite section, which is more similar to the south-east of the state. Structurally complex reefs include underwater extensions of sea cliffs and have highly variable wave exposures and depths, some extending to 70m. The additional presence of seagrass beds comprised of the Black-stemmed Eelgrass (*Heterozostera nigricaulis*) in depths of 5-15 m, patchy reef intermixed with cobbles, and extensive areas of unvegetated sand add to the habitat diversity of the island. Beds of the Giant Kelp on the southern and western sides of the island are amongst the few truly persistent beds in the central-north east region, and are therefore of high conservation value. While algae dominate shallow waters, providing up to 80% cover in depths less than 30 m, sponge habitat increases below 30 m and dominates below 40 m providing a diverse and brightly coloured invertebrate community. The island also provides breeding habitat for the Little Penguin and Short-tailed Shearwater, while offshore species such as the Australasian Gannet and Vulnerable Shy Albatross are observed in the area. Australian Fur Seals haul-out on the eastern side of the island, and Southern Right Whales enter the passage during their seasonal migration.



Special features of the Bioregion contained in the site

variable geology, Iconic contrasting orange-hued granite rocks	✓
white sandy beaches and dazzling aquamarine waters	✓
approximately equal areas of rocky headlands and sandy beaches	✓
a moderate tidal range	✓
warm temperate influences, influenced by the warm East Australian Current	✓
an exposed coastline to easterly weather but relatively sheltered from the prevailing westerly winds	✓
High reef biodiversity	✓

'high profile' or structurally complex reef	✓
biological communities are highly variable, with many fish and other species present in the northern section but absent from the south.	✓
numerous coastal lagoons including barred, low salinity estuaries or 'lagoons'	✓
north-east estuaries have rich invertebrate and fish communities	✓
some very rare habitats for marine species, such as the Native Flat Oyster	✓
traditionally the most northerly forests of the Giant kelp	✓
beach habitats important for migratory shorebirds.	✓

Known Threats

The site is relatively remote from coastal development, but is well-used for fishing and recreation. Those activities have their own risks. Climate change is also being felt, with the eastern coastline increasingly being damaged by urchin barrens.

Current protection

Not protected

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.	An area of moderate impact on current users. Will include fishing habitat.

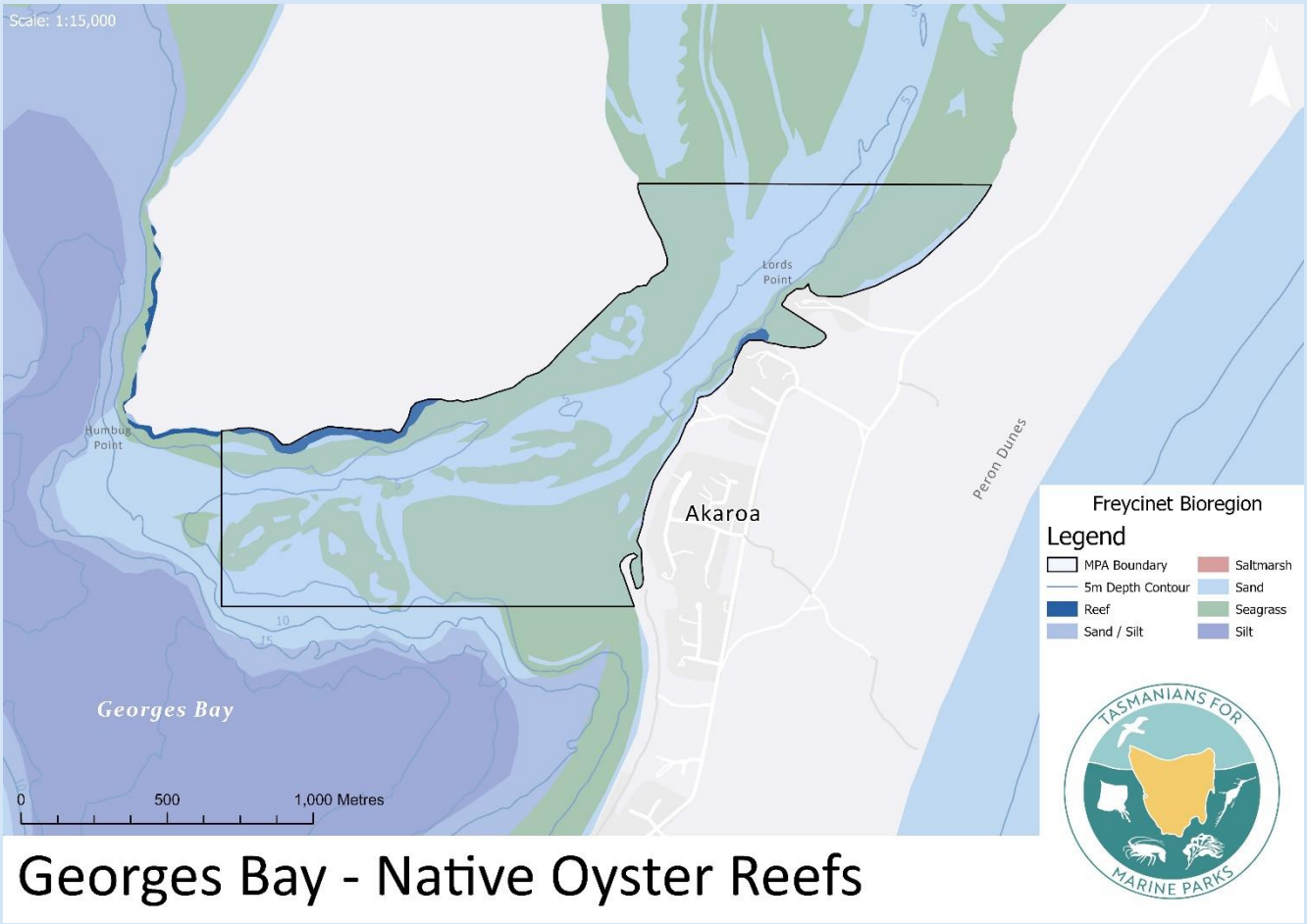
	- Current or potential use for the extraction of, or exploration for resources - Current or potential use for the extraction of, or exploration for resources - Importance for shipping and/or trade. - Value due to its contribution to local or regional employment and economic development.	Linkages to iconic land national park
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	Recognisable area popular with cruising yachtsmen and boaters.
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, linkages to land iconic national park
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

Design Comments

There are many natural values in the area, hard to capture without creating a very large MPA that is unlikely to enjoy public support.

Recommended Protection

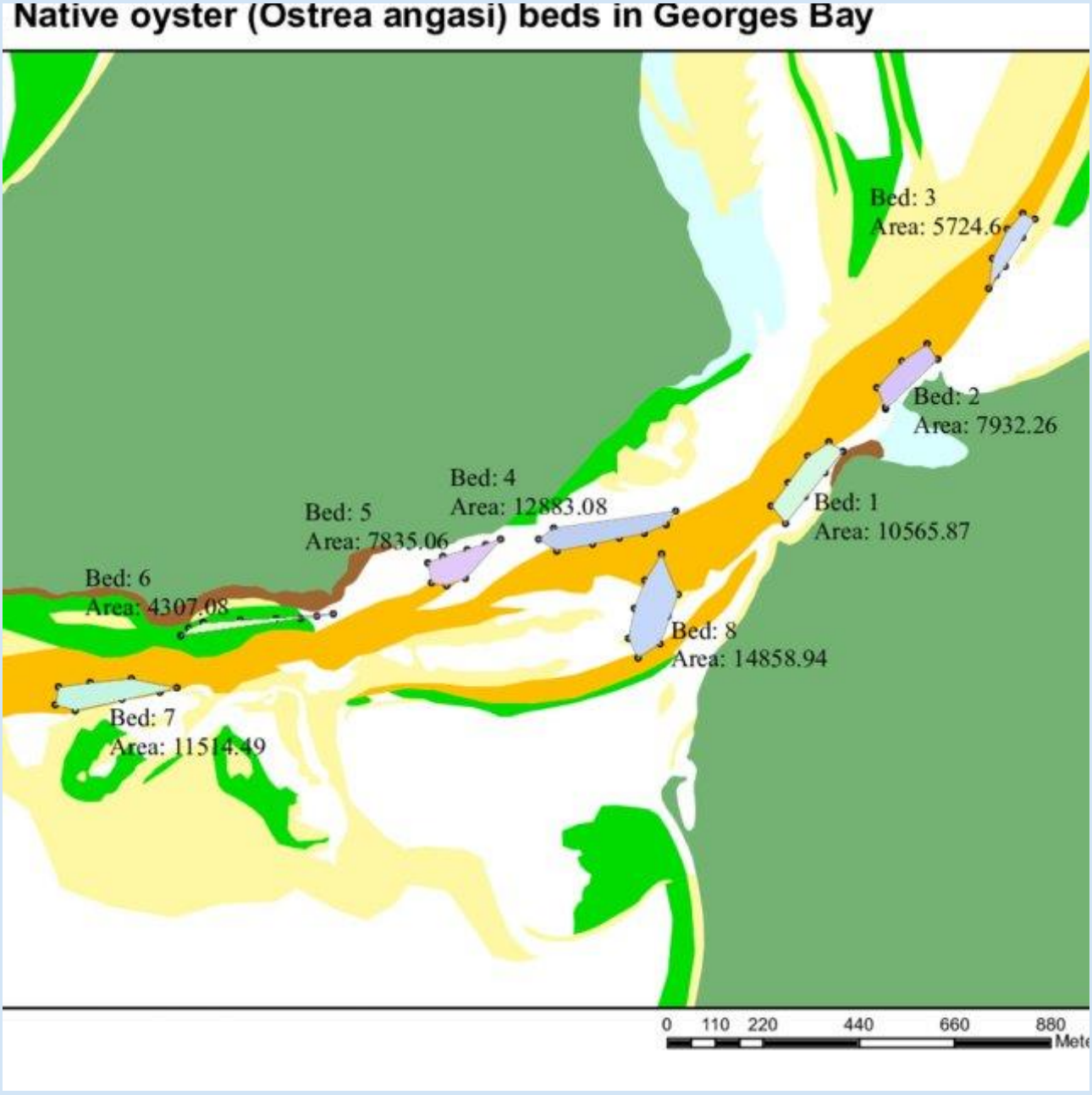
Georges Bay Oyster Reef



Special Features of the Site

Dr Karen Parsons – "The Native Flat Oyster (*Ostrea angasi*) was once so abundant in southern Australian waters that it formed large reefs several metres high that dominated the seabed within estuaries and sheltered bays. In the late 19th century, these reefs provided a major food source for the population of Hobart and other parts of Tasmania; however heavy exploitation and disease destroyed all Australian reefs of this species, with the exception of a single reef in Georges Bay on the east coast of Tasmania. Native Flat Oysters do occur in other areas, such as the D'Entrecasteaux Channel of southern Tasmania and parts of Victoria; however in these areas the oysters only form small clumps or individuals associated with soft sediments. In Georges Bay, the oysters still form a consolidated 'biogenic' (i.e. produced by living organisms) structure elevated above the seabed – the only true native oyster reef remaining in southern Australia. The reef consists of three major beds, which together have been estimated to support approximately

780,000 oysters, and are of critical significance for the conservation of native oyster habitat".



Gillies et al

Special features of the Bioregion contained in the site

variable geology, Iconic contrasting orange-hued granite rocks	
white sandy beaches and dazzling aquamarine waters	
approximately equal areas of rocky headlands and sandy beaches	
a moderate tidal range	
warm temperate influences, influenced by the warm East Australian Current	✓
an exposed coastline to easterly weather but relatively sheltered from the prevailing westerly winds	✓
High reef biodiversity	
'high profile' or structurally complex reef	✓
biological communities are highly variable, with many fish and other species present in the northern section but absent from the south.	
numerous coastal lagoons including barred, low salinity estuaries or 'lagoons'	
north-east estuaries have rich invertebrate and fish communities	✓
some very rare habitats for marine species, such as the Native Flat Oyster	✓
traditionally the most northerly forests of the Giant kelp	
beach habitats important for migratory shorebirds.	

Known Threats

The general threats of significance to low lying or soft coastlines like estuaries and beaches are: [15]

- increased siltation resulting from land clearance and urban and rural runoff,
- increased nutrient loads resulting from marine farms, sewerage and agricultural use of fertilisers,
- foreshore development, dredging, habitats clearing and reclamation
- modification to water flow through dams and weirs,

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

- acidification of rivers and heavy metal pollution from mines,
- the spread of introduced pest species, and
- sea level rise and coastal erosion.
- Microplastics and litter (particularly damaging to seabirds).

The area is particularly unique and vulnerable and it lies along a major navigation route on a fragile soft bottom. The area already has a collection of litter and some black urchins.

Current protection

The area is unprotected and is subject to a shellfish fishery, although no-one appears to be harvesting in the area.

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. - Current or potential use for the extraction of, or exploration for resources - Current or potential use for the extraction of, or exploration for resources - Importance for shipping and/or trade. - Value due to its contribution to local or regional employment and economic development.	An area of low 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.

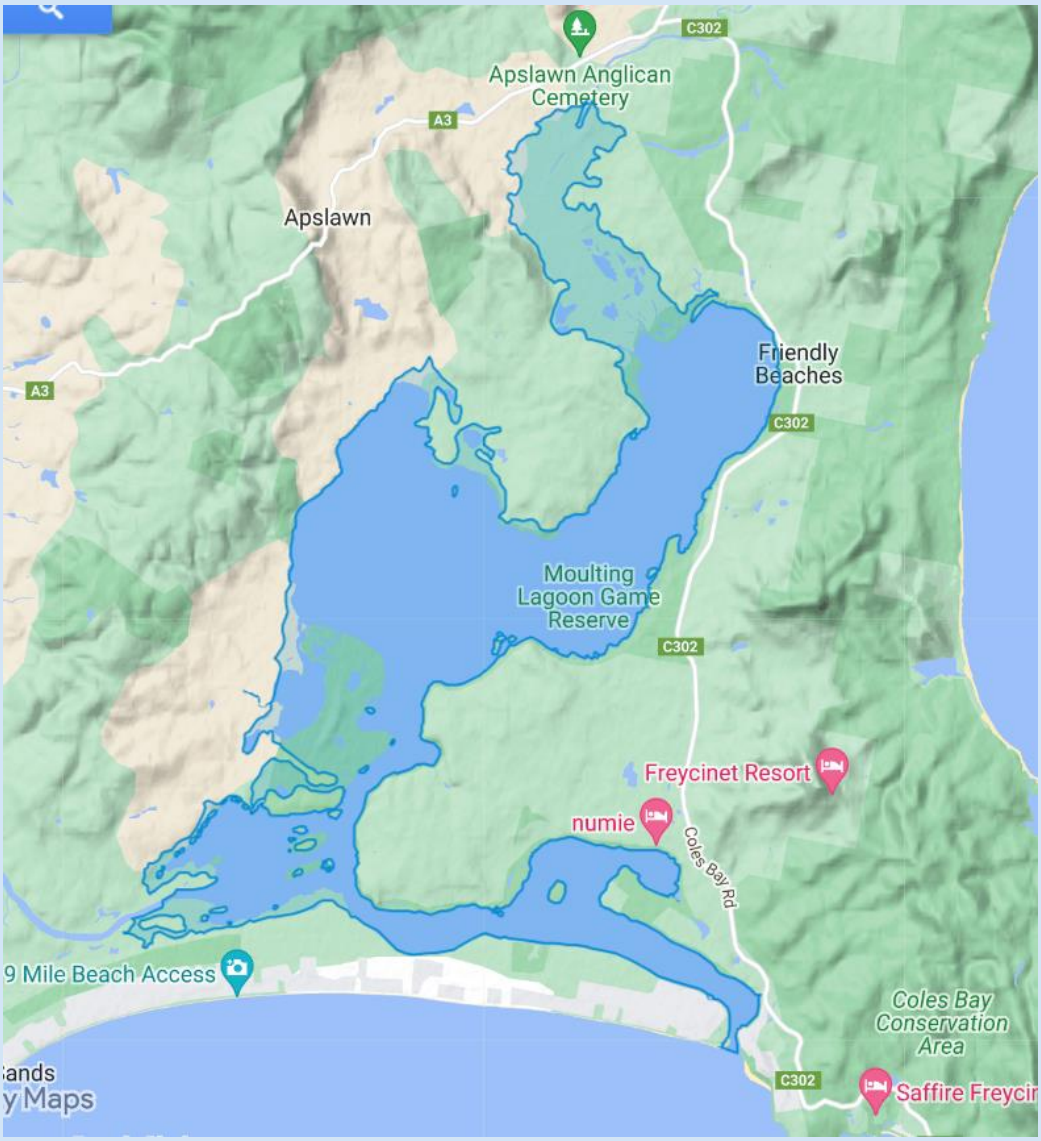
Social Interests	Existing or potential value to the local, national or international communities because of its heritage, cultural, traditional, aesthetic, educational, recreational, or economic values	Presently little used or recognised.
Scientific Interests	Existing or potential value for research and monitoring.	High
Practicality/Feasibility	Degree of insulation from external destructive influences 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.).	Easily managed, existing uses can be accommodated.
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.	Unique, last of its kind.

Recommended Protection

IUCN Category IV marine conservation area. Existing boating access can continue.

The great contest, Photo: Jun Zhang

Moulting Lagoon



Special Features of the Site

Dr Karen Parsons – "A large estuary at the mouths of the Swan and Apsley Rivers, adjacent to the Apsley Marshes Ramsar Site (Site no.255). The lagoon, several sections of coastal reserve surrounding it, and an additional area of dry land one kilometre to the north, make up the Moulting Lagoon Game Reserve. Moulting Lagoon is an excellent example of a large estuary formed behind a bayhead sandspit and is one of only two such areas in Tasmania, and the estuary is recognized as one of high conservation significance for the island. The Site provides an important resting and breeding ground and an important drought refuge for about 100 resident and migratory bird species such as the endangered Eastern curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*), the Australian shelduck (*Tadorna tadornoides*) and the black swan (*Cygnus atratus*). The Site is used for recreational

shooting, fishing and boating, aquaculture and off-road driving, while the surrounding area is used for grazing, residential development, mining, aquaculture and recreation."

Moulting Lagoon | Ramsar Sites Information Service – "Several locations on the east coast are important to bird populations, providing a series of protected nesting and roosting sites. At least thirty species of seabird frequent both inshore and offshore waters, including little penguins, Australasian gannet, three albatross species, silver and Pacific gulls, terns, oyster catchers, plovers, dotterels and pelicans… Two larger wetlands of note are the Earlham Lagoon and the Moulting Lagoon Game Reserve, the latter identified as a "Ramsar" site. Australian wetland areas of international importance were listed when Australia signed "The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, Especially as Waterfowl Habitat", or "Ramsar", in 1971. Under the agreement Australia has international obligations to maintain the area for the conservation of wetland."

Special features of the Freycinet Bioregion

variable geology, Iconic contrasting orange-hued granite rocks	
white sandy beaches and dazzling aquamarine waters	
approximately equal areas of rocky headlands and sandy beaches	✓
a moderate tidal range	✓
warm temperate influences, influenced by the warm East Australian Current	✓
an exposed coastline to easterly weather but relatively sheltered from the prevailing westerly winds	✓
High reef biodiversity	
'high profile' or structurally complex reef	
biological communities are highly variable, with many fish and other species present in the northern section but absent from the south.	✓

numerous coastal lagoons including barred, low salinity estuaries or 'lagoons'	✓
north-east estuaries have rich invertebrate and fish communities	✓
some very rare habitats for marine species, such as the Native Flat Oyster	✓
traditionally the most northerly forests of the Giant kelp	
beach habitats important for migratory shorebirds.	✓

Known Threats

The general threats of significance to low lying or soft coastlines like estuaries and beaches are: [16]

- increased siltation resulting from land clearance and urban and rural runoff,
- increased nutrient loads resulting from marine farms, sewerage and agricultural use of fertilisers,
- foreshore development, dredging, habitats clearing and reclamation
- modification to water flow through dams and weirs,
- acidification of rivers and heavy metal pollution from mines,
- the spread of introduced pest species, and
- sea level rise and coastal erosion.
- Wildlife displacement, disruption of social and feeding behaviour e.g. Beach crowding, Pet impacts[17].
- Microplastics and litter (particularly damaging to seabirds).

The area is partly developed for large shack sites. It is also a game reserve and allows active seasonal duck shooting. It would be desirable to phase out this activity.

Current protection

Low level game and other reserve status

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

[17] Dr Eric Woehler, pers comms

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. - Current or potential use for the extraction of, or exploration for resources - Current or potential use for the extraction of, or exploration for resources - Importance for shipping and/or trade. - Value due to its contribution to local or regional employment and economic development.	An area of low impact on current users even if highly protected, except for seasonal duck hunters.
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	Remote

	Lends itself to practical management (cost effectiveness, compliance etc.).	
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 Category IV marine conservation area, duck hunting needs to be phased out.

Identification Criteria (from Tasmania's MPA Strategy)

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. -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. -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. -Contains habitat for rare or endangered species. - Preserves genetic diversity, ie. is diverse or abundant in species.

	-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. -Contains one or more areas which are a biologically functional, self-sustaining ecological unit. International or National Significance. -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. - 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 suggested sites met the identification criteria except for three sites.

The following sites are not considered suitable for high priority sites at this time.

Mayfield Point	Lack of natural values data.
Ansons Bay larapuna /Eddystone	Significant indigenous community interest in this area and the values are represented in other proposed and existing MPAs. Might suit an indigenous sea country management initiative instead.
St Helen–Binalong Bay	Dr Barrett has previously suggested MPAs from Binalong township south to Grants Point [excluding boat ramp]. Many areas now heavily urchin damaged to the point that they presently have few natural values and need major restorative action.

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.