

AWARD DECISION

Wilsons Promontory Marine National Park



Year Awarded: 2018

Location: Antarctic / Southern Ocean

Ecosystems Protected: Wilsons Promontory Marine National Park (MNP) protects 1.1% of the Flinders marine bioregion; this area marks the mixing zone of warmer waters of the eastern Australian coast with the colder waters of Bass strait to the west which drives high biodiversity in the area. Seagrass beds are found in the sheltered bays at the Wilsons Marine National Park which also protects subtidal rocky reefs, kelp forests, sponge gardens and intertidal and subtidal soft sediment areas. It is a refuge for fur seals, great white sharks, humpback and southern right whales, leatherback and green sea turtles.

History: Wilsons Promontory Marine National Park was established in November 2002.

MPAtlas.org ID: 7703899

Manager(s): Parks Victoria - South Gippsland District and the Environment and Science Division

1. Eligibility Criteria

1.1 Biodiversity Value: Must satisfy at least one	
Includes area of high species richness or endemism within the context of the biogeographic region	X
Includes demonstrated historic or predicted ecological refugia	X
Includes rare, unique or representative ecosystems	X
Includes area important for threatened species (including those identified by the IUCN Red List or national legislation), keystone species or foundational species. Important areas include migration pathways and breeding, nursery, feeding or assembly area.	X
Qualifying Designations	
Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar)	
Important Bird Area (IBA)	
Hope Spot	
Specially Protected Area and Wildlife (SPA) in the Wider Caribbean Region	
Natura 2000 Special Protection Area (SPA) or Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	

1.2 Effective Management & Compliance: Must satisfy all	
The MPA is designated by a legitimate and functional government representing the interests of civil society, and the MPA's implementation meets the IUCN standards for recognizing indigenous peoples' rights.	X
The MPA is designated to enhance the biodiversity value of the site.	X
The MPA designation is permanent or is effective for at least 25 years.	X
A management plan, updated within the last 10 years, identifies and prioritizes significant threats to biodiversity and addresses those threats with measurable actions; the resources and capacity to implement the management plan are identified and secured.	X
Regular monitoring of habitat and/or wildlife is conducted to measure progress with respect to conservation targets. * A report of monitoring data is required at each GLORES audit after designation. Any negative biological trends identified through monitoring must be addressed in management plans. Progress toward identifying threats and addressing them must be documented.	X
The MPA garners high regulation compliance rate. Evidence of adequate resources and capacity (including budget and staff) for enforcement is required.	X
Qualifying Designation: IUCN Green List of Protected Areas	

2. Award Status Criteria

Award	2.1 Regulations	2.2 Design & Management
Platinum	MPA regulation score ≤ 3	At least 3 Design & Management attributes demonstrated
Gold	MPA regulation score of ≤ 4	At least 2 Design & Management attributes demonstrated
Silver	MPA regulation score of ≤ 5	At least 1 Design & Management attribute demonstrated

2.1 Regulations

Regulations-based classification score: 2

2.2 Design & Management	
Size: MPA $\geq 100 \text{ km}^2$ or explicitly designed as part of a network of MPAs to support population connectivity	X
Isolation/Habitat continuity: whole habitat(s) protected, and ecological or other protected area buffers surround habitat(s)	X
Age: Protections in the site, comparable to the current protections, are ≥ 10 years old	X
Community engagement: There is a formal process to engage the local community in the implementation and/or ongoing management of the MPA.	X

3. GLORES Network Priorities

Ecosystem Representation: Wilsons Promontory Marine National Park protects kelp forests, seagrass beds, subtidal reefs, intertidal reefs, intertidal and subtidal soft sediments. Because the Global Ocean Refuge System is only in its second year, the ecosystems protected by Wilsons Promontory MPAs will be the first of these ecosystems within the region to be represented in a Global Ocean Refuge.

Ecological Spatial Connectivity: Because the Global Ocean Refuge System is only in its second year, there are no other Global Ocean Refuges in the region with which to consider the ecological spatial connectivity contribution of Wilsons Promontory MPAs. In future GLORES award cycles, we will describe the location of the MPA within the context of the existing GLORES network, considering connectivity.



Science Council Comments, Considerations and Feedback

It is the conclusion of the Global Ocean Refuge System Science Council that Wilsons Promontory Marine National Park is a well-managed protected area that encompasses important representative ecosystems in the Flinders Bioregion. In addition to safeguarding high biodiversity, the MPA is a projected refuge under climate change scenarios for a large number of important species.

Moving forward, the Science Council encourages increased efforts to engage the indigenous communities of this place, however we acknowledge that some steps are already in place to improve such engagement through the Traditional Owner Partnership Strategy.

The Council understands that Parks Victoria is aiming to implement a new monitoring plan commencing in 2019 and would like to see the data gathered from these studies to be used to measure progress towards management goals and to inform future adaptive management activities.

Concerns were raised during the evaluation process regarding the enforcement capacity in Wilsons Promontory Marine National Park. The Science Council will be particularly focused on whether there is sufficient capacity to garner high compliance rates within the reserve in future GLORES audits.