



2 June 2022 – 29th Coastal Conference - Session 8C – Holistic Coastal Management - 10:40am.

Building capacity in communities to adapt to a changing distribution of migratory wildlife

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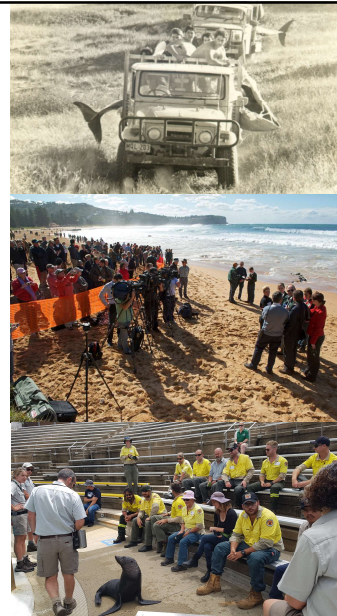
This presentation includes an images of Aboriginal people and cultural activities where permission was granted to record aspects of the events photographically, including cultural activities associated with dead marine animals.

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1

Outline

- The current situation with marine wildlife in NSW
- Marine Estate Management Strategy
- Spotlight on current projects
 - Supporting rescue organisations
 - Southern Right Whale citizen science program – RWID
 - Guidance for councils on biodiversity and CMP's
- What can you do?



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2



3

Why is marine wildlife distribution changing?

- Recovering species, slowly increasing in numbers along the NSW coast after population decimation due to hunting
- Climate change increasing temperature on land and sea, southward shift
- Changes in the East Australian current
- Breeding, nesting and foraging grounds impacted across range
- Anthropomorphic activities and infrastructure in the marine estate and adjacent land
- Persistent and emerging biosecurity risks including novel pathogens

4

Every day in NSW

1.3

marine wildlife events occur



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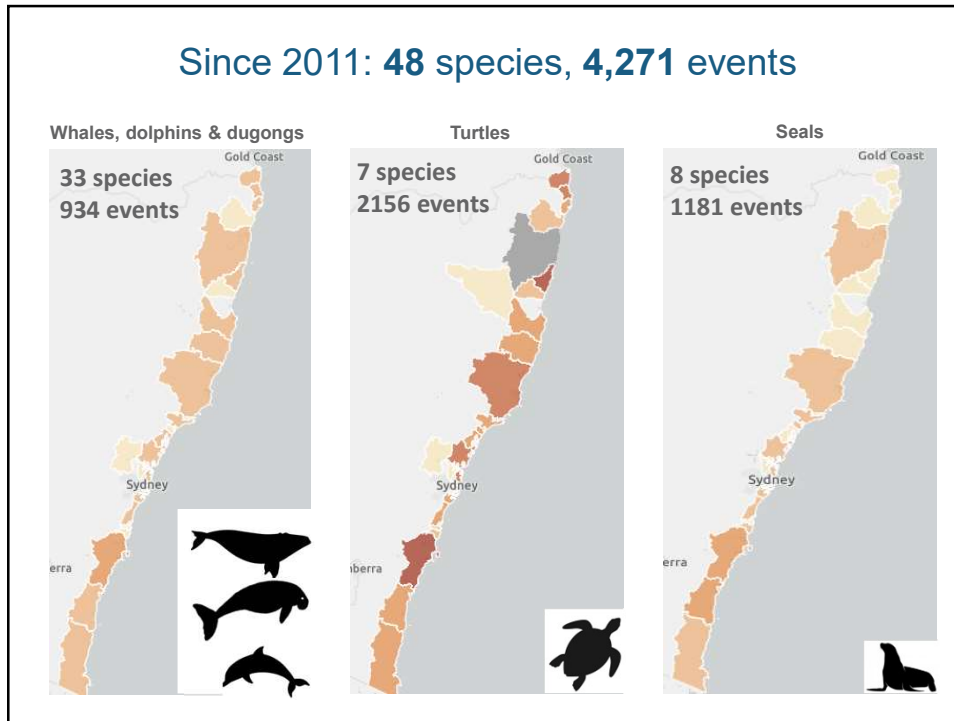
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9



10



11

The **NSW Marine Estate Management Strategy 2018 - 2028** outlines how to protect and enhance our waterways, coastline and estuaries over the next 10 years.

MEMA works across government agencies for a coordinated approach to better manage the NSW marine estate as a single continuous system.

Marine Estate Management Strategy (MEMS)
A healthy coast and sea, managed for the greatest wellbeing of the community, now and into the future.

**Initiative 5:
Reducing impacts on threatened and protected species**

Biodiversity Conservation Act
DPE is responsible for the protection and conservation of marine wildlife
Threatened marine wildlife – captured by Saving Our Species

Marine Integrated Monitoring Program
Set out leading indicators and key performance indicator for each initiative and project to measure the success of the strategy and condition and trend of values in the marine estate including wildlife

Int. 5 key project themes:

1. Planning
2. Partnerships
3. Education
4. Reporting
5. Habitat Research
6. Species Monitoring

12

Building capacity

- Supporting rescue organisations with equipment and codes of practice and standards to support good outcomes
- Southern Right Whale citizen science program – RWID
- Guidance for councils on biodiversity and CMP's
 - Research Prospectus
 - Common reporting platform for partners – Elements
 - Support for the Turtlewatch program with Australian Seabird and Turtle Rescue
 - New signage for haul outs and turtle nests
 - Aboriginal community involvement in marine wildlife events
 - Carcass disposal guidelines
 - Training for councils and volunteers – beach nesting shorebird management
 - Training to support vets and undertake more post-mortems
 - Large whale disentanglement – training and equipment
 - Seal assessment and transport training and equipment
 - Updated Marine Wildlife Management Manual



13

Supporting marine wildlife rescue

- Most groups are now reporting real time in Elements – NPWS emergency reporting system.
- Currently trialling a statewide marine duty officer to support coordination of marine wildlife response
- Provided grants to improve organisation equipment
- Updated the Marine Wildlife Management Manual
- Code of Practice for injured and sick sea turtles and sea snakes
- Sea Turtle and Sea Snake Rehabilitation Training Standards for the Volunteer Wildlife Rehabilitation Sector
- Guidelines for the initial treatment and care of rescued sea turtles
- Marine mammal version is coming soon...



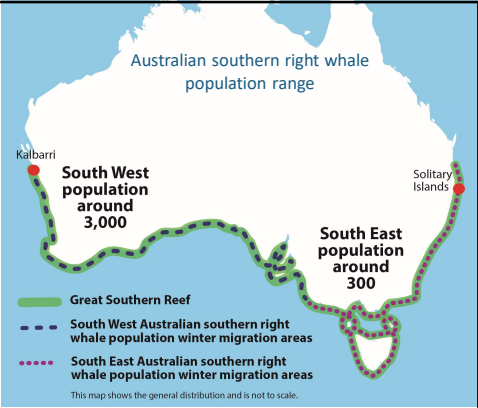
14


Right Whale ID project

- Whale populations were decimated during commercial hunting ending in NSW around 60 years ago
- The Australian population of southern right whales is endangered

Unlike humpback whales, the SE Australian population of southern right whales:

- are not recovering well. There is thought to be fewer than 70 breeding females
- prefer shallow bays and sheltered beaches to give birth and nurture their young
- can be uniquely identified by the white patches of hardened skin on an individual's head





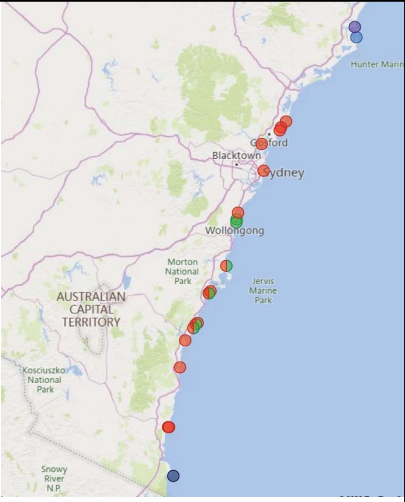
15



Right Whale ID project

Launched on 28 July 2021 by Environment Minister Matt Kean MP

2021 season

- 24 CASA accredited and licenced drone operators, registered as NPWS volunteers and trained in the program
- Covering 2000km coastline
- 38 sightings over 114 days
- 25 capturing quality drone images determined there were only
 - 5 adults
 - 3 calves
- Slack – platform used for communications
- ArcGIS online webmap interface for data
- Program continuing in 2022 with SRW already reported in NSW and operators on alert



16

Reducing coastal threats to marine biodiversity

For local councils preparing Coastal Management Programs

Ready reckoner to support councils to:

- Understand threats to marine biodiversity along the NSW coastline
- Identify the drivers of those threats, what species impacted and how significant the threat is
- Provide examples of management actions that councils can consider for inclusion
- Provide support if more information is needed
- Based on the Threat and Risk Assessment (TARA) and will be updated following the five-year health check for the Threat and Risk Assessment in 2023
- Available online at marine.nsw.gov.au under supporting materials in the threat and risk assessment section.



17

So... what can you do?

Councils

- Consider marine wildlife in your coastal management program including reducing coastal light pollution
- Work with local rescue organisations and NPWS to develop marine wildlife response procedures including cultural protocols
- Report dead wildlife to NPWS before disposal

Research institutions

- Check out the research prospectus and identify opportunities to collaborate
- Let NPWS know if you are doing research that may be relevant to marine wildlife conservation in NSW

Everyone

- Support your local wildlife rescue group
- Contact NPWS on 1300 0 PARKS if you see a sick, injured or stranded marine animal
- Keep your distance to reduce disturbance to marine wildlife
- Get in touch if you want to know more marine.fauna@environment.nsw.gov.au



18