

CSIRO Marine Research

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9 June 2004

To Stakeholders

Dear Stakeholder

The Department of Environment and Heritage has established a work program with CMR to develop a Conservation Values Assessment (CVA) for the 'Norfolk Seamounts' region. The purpose of this assessment is to decide if the area contains biodiversity values worthy of protection¹.

This letter is aimed at informing you of the Conservation Values Assessment work we are undertaking on the Norfolk Seamounts region; as well as to call for information and/or data you or your organisation might be holding.

Information collected for the Assessment will include a description of the physical environment, a description of the biological environment, current and potential uses and existing management regimes, as well as current and potential impacts on natural values. The assessment will also attempt to address, where possible, the identification criteria proposed for the development of the National Representative System of Marine Protected areas² such as representativeness, comprehensiveness, uniqueness, naturalness and ecological importance. For this assessment we also intend to draw on data from seamounts and similar features in neighbouring regions for comparison and interpretation.

In an earlier part of the work program, CMR identified sources of information that could benefit the CVA. Your organisation may already have been contacted as part of this information gathering process in 2003. For the current project, we are now seeking your assistance to access data and information that may assist in the assessment of the Norfolk Seamounts region.

¹ <http://www.deh.gov.au/coasts/mpa/commonwealth/establish/about.html#identify>

² <http://www.ea.gov.au/coasts/mpa/nrsmpa/index.html>

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I appreciate you may have conditions to meet before data/information is released to us, and I would anticipate that some personal contact is required to see what may be necessary. Can I request that you nominate the contact details of the person within your agency that has the authority to act on your agency's behalf. A member of the project team, either Donna Hayes or Franzis Althaus, will then contact your nominated representative to identify what data and information is currently held by you, which may be available for use in this assessment process.

If you believe your organisation has relevant information and/or data can you please respond **before June 30, 2004**, so we have sufficient time to directly contact your nominated representative to arrange the inclusion of your information in the CVA. If you are interested in keeping informed about the status of the CVA process, we will be posting regular updates on our web site³.

Could you please address any correspondence or enquiries to Donna Hayes (e-mail: donna.hayes@csiro.au; phone (03) 6232 5014) or Franzis Althaus (e-mail: franzis.althaus@csiro.au; phone:(03) 6232 5059).

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Alan Williams
Project Leader

³ <http://www.marine.csiro.au/norfolkseamountscva> (under construction, available by end of June)