

# Point Addis Marine National Park

## - Life beyond the surf

### The energy of the waves

The powerful waves arriving on Victoria's west coast are generated by storms far out in the Southern Ocean. Approaching from the south-west, they turn around a headland, rise up the sloping seafloor, and break, high and steep, from west to east at an angle of 10° to the shore.

This is Bells Beach, Victoria's world-renowned surfing beach. But in addition to producing a surfing paradise, the waves also nourish life in the sea, bringing much needed food and oxygen in their turbulent froth.

The coast from Anglesea to Bells Beach, around Point Addis, is composed of crumbling sandstone and limestone cliffs, sandy bays and jutting headlands. The limestone forms extensive rock platforms at some points, but elsewhere the waves wash right up to the cliffs.

This dramatic and significant marine environment is now protected for the future in Point Addis Marine National Park.

Offshore there are many small rocky reefs, including Ingoldsby Reef near Anglesea, famous for its seadragons. These reefs are covered in a bright display of brown, red and green seaweeds. Meadows of Sea-nymph Seagrass occur in the sand between the reefs, its wiry stems swaying in tune with the waves.

In deeper water there are areas of large mushroom-shaped reefs, capped with kelps and encrusting sponges. These reefs hold abundant fish-life including Blue-Throated and Senator Wrasse, sea sweep, Morwong and Southern Hulafish

Point Addis also contains large areas of sand. Near the shore this is often winnowed into parallel ridges, but in deeper water there are large flat areas of sandy shell. Clumps of sea-squirts, sponges, stinging hydroids and sea-moss are abundant here, providing much needed shelter to fish such as ling.

Behind the breaking waves on a sunny calm day, you can often see Australian Fur Seals, cooling themselves at the sea surface by sticking flippers into the air to lose body heat. Dolphins are also often seen.

As well as surfing at Bells and Addiscot beaches, the area is popular for snorkelling and diving, especially at Ingoldsby Reef, beach walks, nature study on the rock platforms, and sightseeing from cliff-top lookouts.



Surfing

### Protecting our marine environment

The waters off Australia's southern coast are very special and unique. Over 90% of the plants and animals living here are found nowhere else on earth.

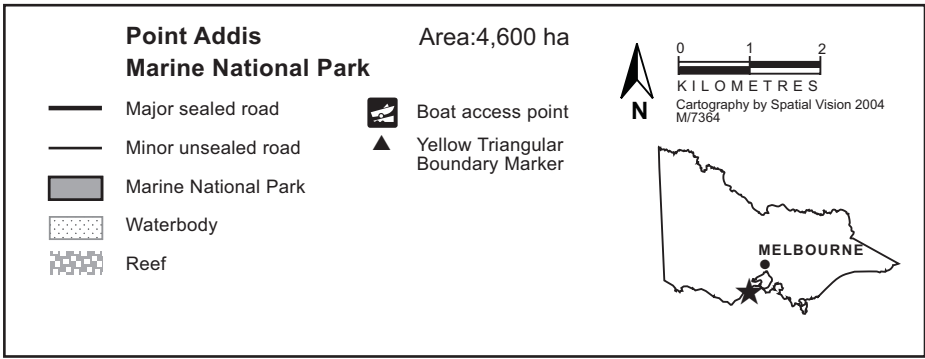
The Victorian Government has created a system of 13 Marine National Parks and 11 smaller Marine Sanctuaries to ensure that representative samples of Victoria's diverse, distinctive and amazing marine environment are conserved for future generations.

These parks and sanctuaries now protect 5.3% of Victoria's coastal waters, safeguarding important marine habitats and species, and complementing our world-class national parks system on land.

By keeping some of these marine areas in a natural state, free from potentially damaging human activities, we will protect these environments into the future. Victorians will also benefit from the positive effects that this protection will have on recreation and tourism, community education and scientific research.

People are encouraged to visit Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries, but extractive or potentially damaging activities (e.g. fishing and mining) are prohibited within their boundaries in order to preserve marine biodiversity and maintain or enhance the condition of these areas.



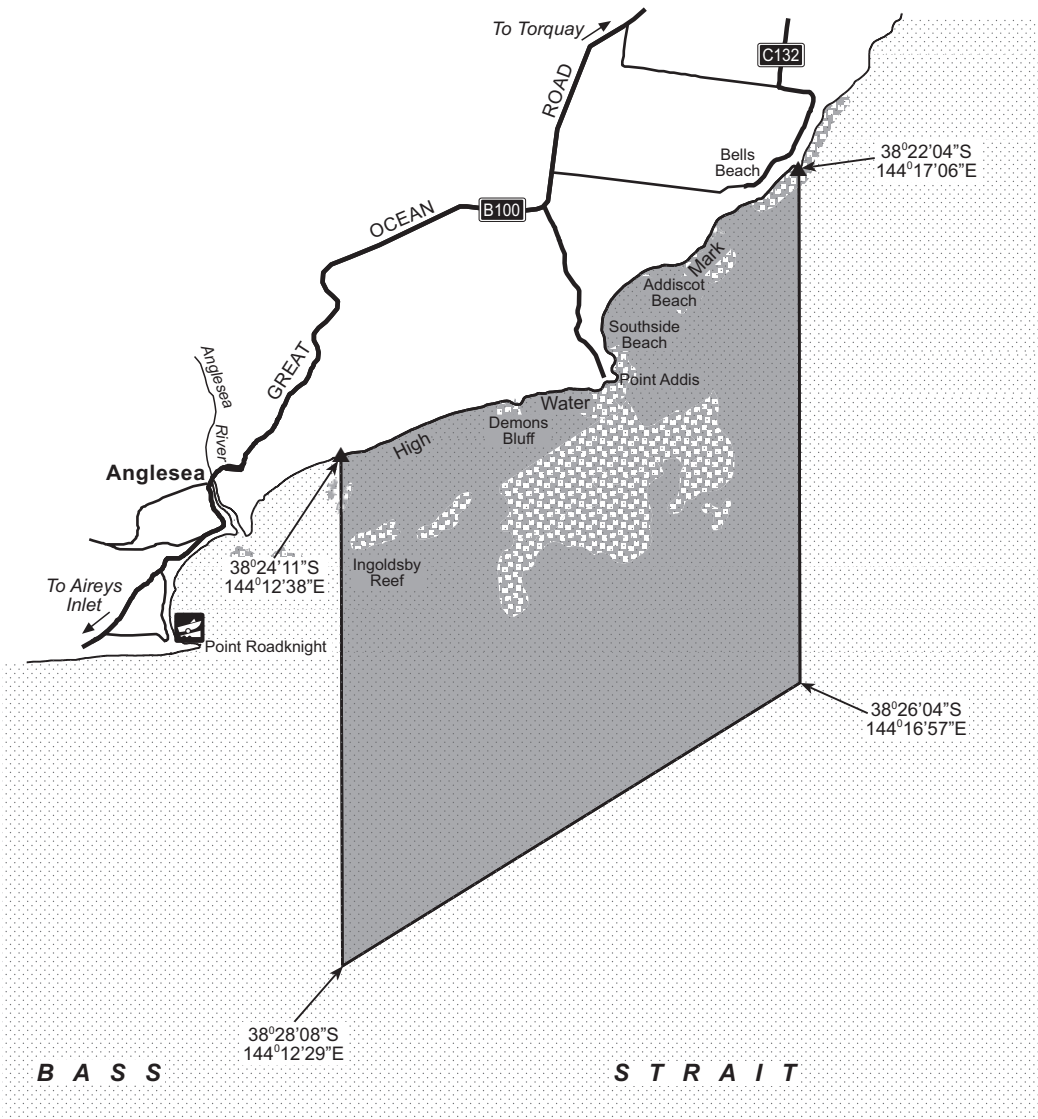


No fishing, netting, spearing, taking or killing of marine life. All methods of fishing, from the shore or at sea, are prohibited.



No taking or damaging of animals, plants and objects (artefacts)

Latitude and Longitude values are based on WGS84. GPS users note that co-ordinates for boundaries are given in the format degrees:minutes:seconds. Alternate formats are available on Parkweb, by calling 13 1963, or from Parks Victoria offices. Location of reefs are for illustrative purposes only and may not indicate true position.

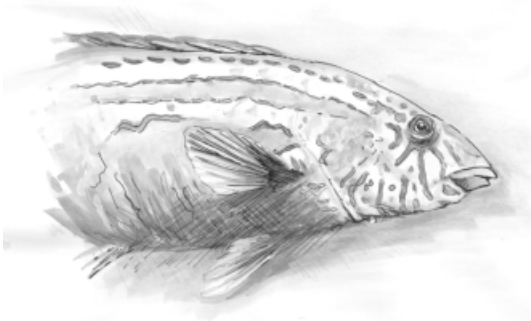


## What you might see

### Senator Wrasse *Pictilabrus laticlavius*

Inquisitive and ever active, the Senator Wrasse is one of the most beautiful kelp forest residents of the park area. A carnivorous fish that hunts a wide range of small animals including snails, amphipods and crabs, the bright green males and reddish females can be seen busily slipping in and out of the kelp fronds.

During the spring breeding season male Senator Wrasse become territorial and can be seen swimming above the kelp, fins erect. Females release millions of eggs above the forest, and if these are successfully fertilised by the male, juveniles will float in the ocean current for 2 -3 weeks. Few survive this experience. Over 10 species of wrasse are found in southern Australian coastal waters.



Senator Wrasse

### Cowrie Snail *Cypraea comptoni*

Beautiful, yet shy and elusive in habit, cowrie snails can be found on reefs in the park, feeding on sponges living on the underside of rocks. The snail can draw its skin-like mantle over its distinctive shell, the colour of the mantle assisting with camouflage.

This is one of the smaller cowries of the 77 found in Australian waters, being only 25 millimetres in length. It lays its eggs in a depression in the rocks, and then protects them until they hatch by 'sitting' on them.



Cowrie Snail

## Nearby parks and reserves

### Angahook-Lorne State Park

Enjoy great walks through tall forest, river valleys and fern gullies to waterfalls and ocean views in this park, which stretches along the Great Ocean Road from Anglesea to Kennett River.

There are several delightful picnic and camping areas reached from Anglesea or Aireys Inlet, and magnificent views from coastal lookouts.

### Otway National Park

Otway National Park follows the spectacular coastline between Apollo Bay and Princetown. It contains luxuriant forest, fern gullies and some of the most rugged and inaccessible coastline in Victoria.

Enjoy the short Maits Rest Rainforest Walk and take a guided tour or stay overnight at the nearby **Cape Otway Lightstation**, the oldest surviving lighthouse on the Australian mainland.

### Port Phillip Heads Marine National Park

This new park includes six separate areas in the southern end of Port Phillip Bay and features seagrass meadows, intertidal platforms, waterbird habitat and dramatic underwater scenery.

It is ideal for a wide range of recreation pursuits, from swimming, diving, snorkelling and boating to birdwatching, nature study and beach activities.

Activity	What can I do?
<b>Recreational activities</b>	
• nature observation and sightseeing	yes
• snorkelling and scuba diving	yes
• swimming, surfing	yes
• windsurfing, sailing, boating	yes
• filming and photography	yes
<b>Recreational fishing and harvesting</b>	
• all forms of fishing - line, spear, netting, traps	no
• shellfish collection, including abalone and rock lobster collection	no
• bait collection	no
• catch and release fishing	no
<b>Commercial fishing and marine aquaculture</b>	
• abalone fishing	no
• rock lobster fishing	no
• netting, line fishing and trapping	no
• marine aquaculture	no
<b>Education and research</b>	
• educational excursions	yes
• scientific research	yes (2)
<b>Other uses</b>	
• licensed tour operators	yes (2)
• filming and photography	yes (2)
• removal or disturbance of plants or animals	no
• dredging and spoil dispersal	no
• activities that disturb the seafloor	no
• waste and ballast discharge	no
1 <b>Restrictions may apply to high-speed boating or the use of personal watercraft where there is a conflict with natural values or other users</b>	
2 <b>Subject to permit</b>	

### Marine National Park boundaries

**Point Addis Marine National Park (4,600 ha)** extends along 10km of coastline east of Anglesea, around Point Addis to Bells Beach, and offshore for approximately three nautical miles to the limit of Victorian waters.

## Personal safety

Diving should only be undertaken by trained and experienced divers

Beware of sudden changes in weather, especially when boating on open water

Beware of strong currents and undertows when snorkelling or at the beach

Wear shoes that grip well when walking on rock platforms

Watch where your hands are going at all times to avoid potentially dangerous creatures

Be aware of large unexpected waves when walking on shore, especially on rock platforms

Stay away from cliff edges and bases

## Caring for the marine environment

Discarded gear and rubbish can endanger birds and marine animals – please take your rubbish home

Always replace any organisms or rocks you may have disturbed

Practise minimal impact diving and snorkelling techniques

Take the time to learn more about Victoria's marine animals and plants and the habitats they depend on

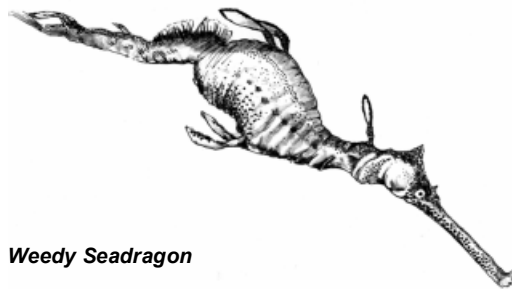
## Enjoying Point Addis Marine National Park

As well as protecting the marine environment, Point Addis Marine National Park offers an attractive range of recreation opportunities.

As well as surfing at Bells and Addiscot beaches, the area is popular for snorkelling and diving, especially at Ingoldsby Reef, beach walks, nature study and sightseeing from cliff-top lookouts.

Bells Beach is one of the world's most famous surfing beaches and home to a number of major surfing competitions. Experience the exhilaration of some of the best waves in Australia, with great breaks at both Bells and at nearby Winkipop, as well as Addiscot Beach further west.

The offshore reefs contain a number of excellent diving and snorkelling locations, both boat-based and from the shore. Look out for both the Weedy Seadragon and Leafy Seadragon, rarely seen in Victoria, among the abundant marine life on Ingoldsby Reef.



*Weedy Seadragon*

Strolling on the superb beaches between Point Addis and Anglesea is a popular and relaxing pastime, but be careful to consider the tides in any walks along the beach as some points can be impossible to pass at high tide

Magnificent rockpools around Point Addis itself as well as at the base of the cliffs at Bells and Winkipop offer an introduction to the remarkable marine life of Victoria's west coast, and lookouts along the cliffs give panoramic views along the rugged shoreline.



*Rockpool rambling*

## Restrictions

For the protection of the marine environment, a number of activities are prohibited within the boundaries of Victoria's Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries.



No fishing, netting, spearing, taking or killing of marine life. All methods of fishing, from the shore or at sea, are prohibited



No taking or damaging of animals, plants and objects (artefacts)

There are strong penalties under the National Parks Act for fishing in Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries.

These restrictions and penalties apply in Point Addis Marine National Park from 16 November 2002.

You may carry fin-fish on board your boat within park boundaries if you caught the fish outside the parks, and you may also carry (but not use) a fishing rod or a spear gun.

You may also have abalone or rock lobster and associated equipment (securely stowed) on board the boat provided that you are travelling straight through the park by the shortest practicable route.

To report a fishing offence call the Department of Primary Industries on 13FISH (133 474).

Parks Victoria is responsible for the day-to-day management of Victoria's Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries.

If you would like further information about Victoria's Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries, contact the Parks Victoria Information Centre on **13 1963** or visit the Parks Victoria website at: [www.parkweb.vic.gov.au](http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au)

Parknotes on each of Victoria's Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries, including boundaries and permitted and prohibited activities, have been produced to assist visitors to these areas.