

Two Bays January 2010 Science and Monitoring Program

Project Title: Reef Life Survey and Diver Operated Video Surveys at Port Phillip Heads Marine National Park

Lead Agency / Scientists:

- People and Parks Foundation – Jacqui Pocklington
- Reef Life Survey – Rick Stewart-Smith

- University of Western Australia – Euan Harvey
- Australian Marine Ecology – Matt Edmunds
- Parks Victoria – Steffan Howe
- Museum Victoria – Paige Shaw

Purpose:

- To provide an opportunity for volunteer marine focused community groups to develop and enhance skills in scientific monitoring of subtidal reefs at Port Phillip Heads

- To demonstrate new Diver Operated Video Surveys of fish and discuss opportunities for using this new method

Background:

- The national Reef Life Survey (RLS) monitoring program is one of People and Parks Foundation's volunteer marine monitoring programs.
- RLS monitoring has been shown to provide useful data for researchers and managers alike and provides an important opportunity for volunteers to contribute to the management of the MPAs in their regions
- Significant issues that are addressed through volunteer monitoring include marine pest monitoring, and management effectiveness of reef habitat within the parks.
- Diver Operated Video Surveys (DOVs) were developed by Dr Euan Harvey from University of Western Australia and Jim Seager from SeaGIS for more accurate surveys of fish.
- The method involves use of the latest technology including stereo video equipment and software that allow accurate measurements and identification of fish species that can result in improved quality of monitoring data.

Outline of Program:

Both components will be conducted on 19th January

- Volunteers will be conduct surveys in established monitoring sites to build on the existing subtidal reef monitoring data set.
- Diver Operated Video surveys will be demonstrated and there will be a chance to discuss opportunities to use this technique and potential collaboration amongst scientists

For Further Information:

www.peopleandparks.org/programs/marine-connections/reef-life.html

Image:

Volunteer divers collect data to build knowledge of marine ecosystems

