

# Opposition wants better marine park consultation

By Sophie Wandel

sophie.wandel@nzheraldpress.com

AFTER the State Government announced the marine park local advisory groups last week, the Opposition has come out saying the consultation must be improved.

The Opposition said the advisory groups were long overdue and the government had done little to

alleviate the fears of industry stakeholders.

The advisory groups have been established to help with draft management plans and zoning arrangements and include local people with various expertise.

Opposition Fisheries spokesperson Adrian Pederick and Opposition environment spokesperson Michelle Lensink said they had listened to fishing industry concerns grow through-

out the marine park process.

"The announcement of 13 local advisory groups (statewide) ... is certainly overdue, and an encouraging step, but for those on the ground there has been a lack of communication," Mr Pederick said.

Mrs Lensink met with members of the Marine Parks Management Alliance, which includes representatives of the rock lobster, marine scalefish, abalone, sardine, blue

crab and prawn industries, who she says are at their wit's end with the marine park process.

"The various industry peaks want meaningful consultation at each stage of the process, where their views and experiences are taken into consideration when zoning and boundaries are being formulated," Mrs Lensink said.

"Above all else, they feel that the future holds many unknowns for them."

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Eyre Peninsula has six marine parks with the boundaries set last July. The zones and management plans still need to be worked out.

There is the Lower Eyre Peninsula marine park, Sir Joseph Banks Group marine park, West Coast marine park, Far West marine park, Far West Coast marine park and Franklin Harbor marine park.