

# Conservation

## Critical Ecological Concepts

- Conservation is necessary to protect our marine and coastal environments.
- Victoria's Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries are chosen to protect the diversity of life along our shores.
- Human actions such as allowing wastes and rubbish to end up in marine ecosystems puts the survival of living things at risk
- If conditions are changed too much, living things can become endangered or eventually extinct.
- Indigenous peoples have usually worked within their environment in ways that have tended to preserve relationships within ecosystems

## Strategic Questions

- Why are there laws preventing the removal of sea life from Marine Sanctuaries?
- What is the effect if group of animals is added to or removed from a food chain? What might be the effects of stopping fishing in the Marine Sanctuary? How can we minimize our own impact when we visit the Marine Sanctuary? ?
- What are some of the causes and consequences of the disappearance of marine plant communities? How can we prevent this happening?
- How can ecosystems be affected by large numbers of visitors to an area?
- How is climate change likely to have an impact on the health of a marine or coastal ecosystem? How do we play a role in preventing rapid climate change?
- How does the harvesting of immature fish or over fishing have an impact on the ecosystem?
- Why would an introduced species have a detrimental effect on the marine environment? What are some of the marine pests in Victoria that pose a threat to our Marine Sanctuaries? What could be done to prevent these animals or plants from spreading into Barwon Bluff Marine Sanctuary?
- What is bioaccumulation? How does it occur? What preventative measures can be implemented to prevent bioaccumulation?
- How can pollutants passed through the food chain affect human populations?
- How do nutrients in stormwater and sewage influence coastal waters? What are some practical ways to prevent nutrients from entering our waterways?
- Design a series of advertisements for the local paper to promote these ideas.