Fathom Pacific Pty Ltd
4/84-90 Lakewood Blvd, Braeside 3195 VIC AUSTRALIA
ACN 158 508 279
www.fathompacific.com

9 January 2026

Notice to Mariners Information

Aurora Green Offshore Wind Licence Area and Surrounds

Bass Trek Offshore Benthic Survey Campaign, Feb 2026

Survey Type

Personnel from Fathom Pacific Pty Ltd, ERM and The University of Sydney will operate from the vessel *Bass Trek* (Underseas Marine), mobilising from Lakes Entrance on 16 February 2026 (subject to minor changes).

Vessel movements will involve:

- Normal transits in and out of local ports.
- Transiting through State and Commonwealth waters.
- Station-keeping at sampling sites in State and Commonwealth waters.
- Anchoring at overnight refuges in State and Commonwealth waters.
- Vessel shall display appropriate day shapes and lights when under restricted ability to manoeuvre.

Survey operations and equipment will include:

- Vertical deployments from stationary vessel of a Smith McIntyre sediment grab on a winch line.
- Vertical deployments from stationary vessel of a multi-water rosette sampler on a winch line.
- Vertical deployments from stationary vessel of a water quality probe on a winch line.
- Deployment of two Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUVs) and an acoustic monitoring buoy to facilitate that operation.

AUV Operation

The AUV operation involves the following:

- Deployment of a buoy that is moored to the seafloor on a rope for 1–2 hours at a time at a sampling site during daylight hours only, moved between sites during operations, and recovered back to deck at the end of each operational day. Connected to the buoy, extending into the water, is a short electronics payload that carries an Ultra-short Baseline (USBL) acoustic transceiver that is used to track the AUVs in real time.
- Deployment of one or two AUVs (AMSA survey UVI463403 and UVI463402) at a sampling site, which are deployed from the deck of the vessel, then descending vertically to ~1.5 m above the seafloor and complete planned transect grid seafloor imaging missions, monitored using underwater acoustic tracking from the surface buoy.
- While on-mission, the vessel will move a short distance from the transects, remaining within visual range of the buoy and within range of the tracking system to complete other sampling activities while maintaining tracking on the progress of AUVs.
- Recovery of the AUVs to the deck of the vessel after 1–2 hour mission.
- Imagery of the AUVs that will be used can be viewed here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jC2b_zxD9jU and further information can be seen here: https://marine.acfr.usyd.edu.au/seeker-auv/.

Images of a typical AUV operation are provided in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Example AUV operational elements. Clockwise from top left – Diagram of surface tracking buoy to be used for campaign, previous generation of AUV being hauled up the Lauch and Recovery system (LARS), previous generation of AUV being hooked for recovery up the LARS, surface tracking buoy prototype showing surface satellite receivers and USBL pole along with the Seeker class AUV that will be used for Bass Trek campaign.

AUV Operation Fail-safes

Fail-safes for the AUV operation are:

- Operation of the AUVs by experienced engineering team.
- The Master of the vessel *Bass Trek* (Underseas Marine) is highly experienced in offshore East Gippsland operations and will safely monitor all shipping activity.
- Daily briefings and toolbox talks will include the review of scheduled nearby vessel movements.
- Pre-deployment weather and systems checks.
- Pre-clearance of the area in relation to recreation and commercial vessel activity using AIS monitoring, visual and radio communications and avoidance of shipping channels.
- Ability to send mission abort command to AUV to return to surface.
- Programmed mission-abort protocols within the AUV if operational parameters are exceeded.
- Iridium satellite communications strobes on the AUV when at surface.
- Clump weight on a galvanic burn wire rendering the AUV highly positively buoyant after known period of time in the event of power failure.

Fail-safes for the surface tracking buoy are:

- Mooring weight to be sufficient for currents and sea conditions.
- Constant monitoring of buoy.
- Operations during daylight only and recovery to deck at night.
- Buoy fitted with AIS transponder.
- Buoy fitted with radar reflector.
- Buoy fitted with appropriate strobe light.

Timeframe

Operations will take place between 16 February and 6 March 2026, subject to weather conditions.

Operational Area

Survey operations will be conducted within the Aurora Green Offshore Wind Feasibility Licence area (Commonwealth waters) and associated cable routes located in both Commonwealth and Victorian waters, and within the 90-Mile Marine Protected Area.

Figure 2 shows planned sampling sites.

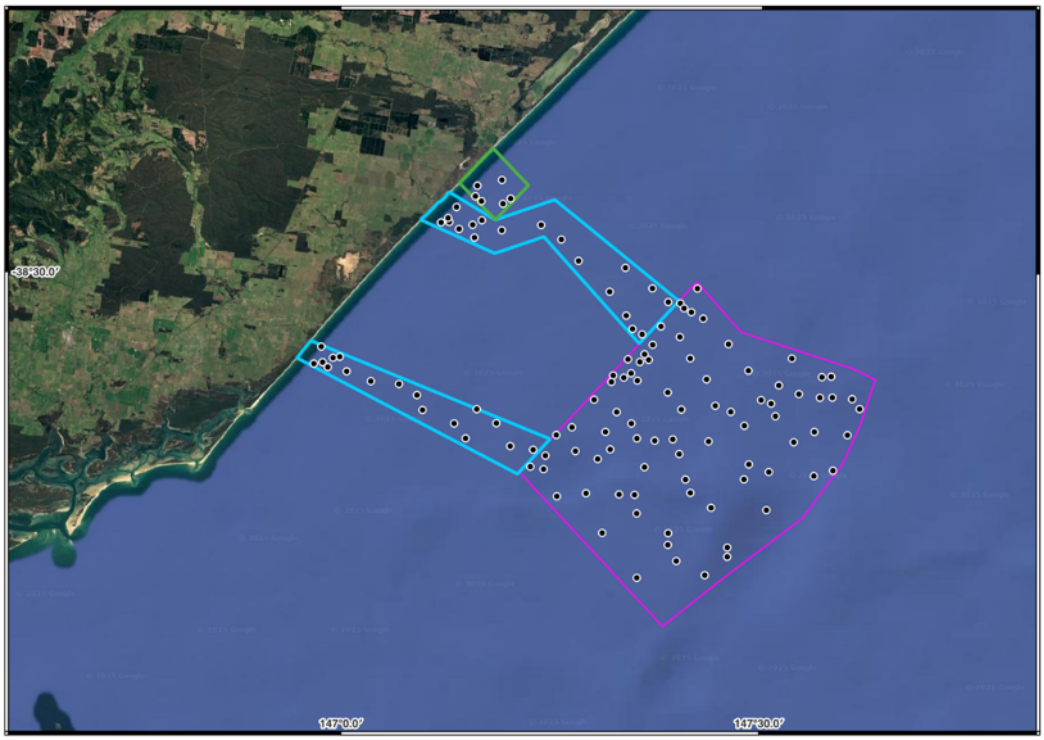


Figure 2. Area of operation

The operational area extends from the coastline to approximately 27 nautical miles offshore. Coordinates of a bounding box around the operational area are listed in table below.

Corner	Latitude (°)	Longitude (°)
1	-38.344090	147.232268
2	-38.620241	147.682871
3	-38.859243	147.411645
4	-38.560352	146.973034

Vessel Details

Vessel name: Bass Trek

Vessel type: Offshore support vessel

Operated by: Underseas Marine

Length: 24 m

Width: 11 m

MMSI: 503412600

Vessel call sign: VKV6646

Flag: Australia

VHF Channel: 16

Operators contact details

Name: Eric Beddome

Role: Vesel Owner

Phone number: 0428 388 069, 03 5259 3761

Email: underseas@bigpond.com

Name: Glenn Turnbull

Role: Master

Phone number: 0475 782 758

Name: Adrian Flynn

Role: Chief Scientist (Fathom Pacific)

Phone number: 0421693120

Email: adrian.flynn@fathompacific.com

Sender contact details

Name: Mark Johnston

Role: Scientist (Fathom Pacific)

Phone number: 0497917967

Email: mark.johnston@fathompacific.com

SAFE TRANSPORT VICTORIA

Victorian Notice to Mariners

The following Notice to Mariners is published for general information.

Australia – Victoria

No. 075 (T) of 2026

EAST BASS STRAIT – WOODSIDE BEACH TO SEASPRAY BEACH BENTHIC SURVEY & AUV OPERATIONS

Date: 23 FEBRUARY TO 13 MARCH 2026

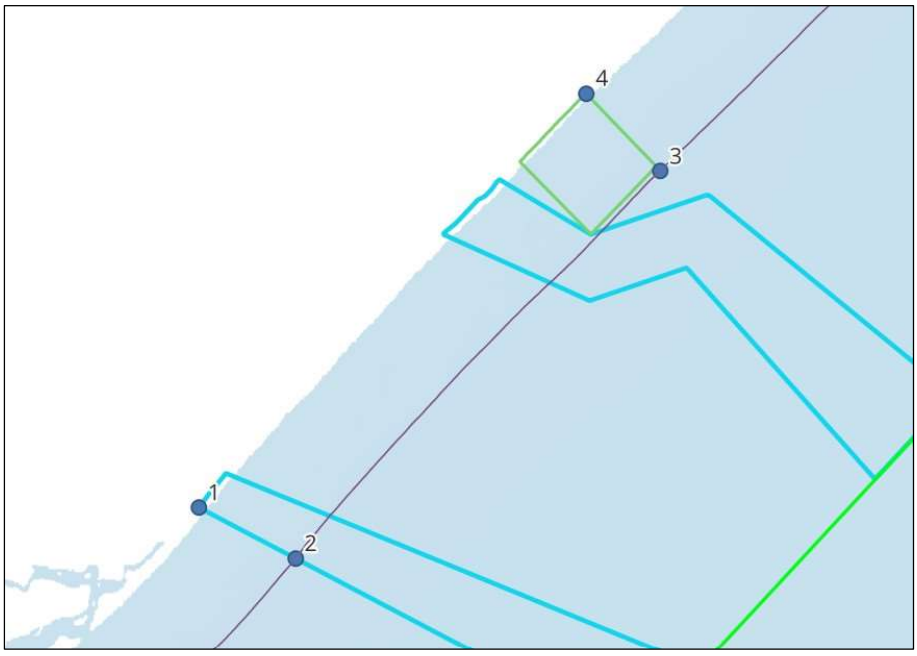
Details: Mariners are advised of benthic survey operations to be undertaken by Fathom Pacific Pty Ltd, within the Aurora Green Offshore Wind Feasibility Licence Area (Commonwealth waters) and associated cable routes located in both Commonwealth and Victorian waters, off the coast of Gippsland, between Woodside Beach and Seaspray Beach. The operations will take place between 23 February and 13 March 2026, subject to weather conditions.

The operational area extends from the coastline to approximately 27NM offshore. The operational area within Victorian waters will be bound by the following points:

Table 1: Coordinates of the operational area in Victorian waters

Point	Latitude	Longitude
1	38° 34′ 53.01″ S	146° 56′ 51.22″ E
2	38° 36′ 19.72″ S	147° 00′ 20.98″ E
3	38° 25′ 18.87″ S	147° 13′ 31.25″ E
4	38° 23′ 07.52″ S	147° 10′ 51.03″ E

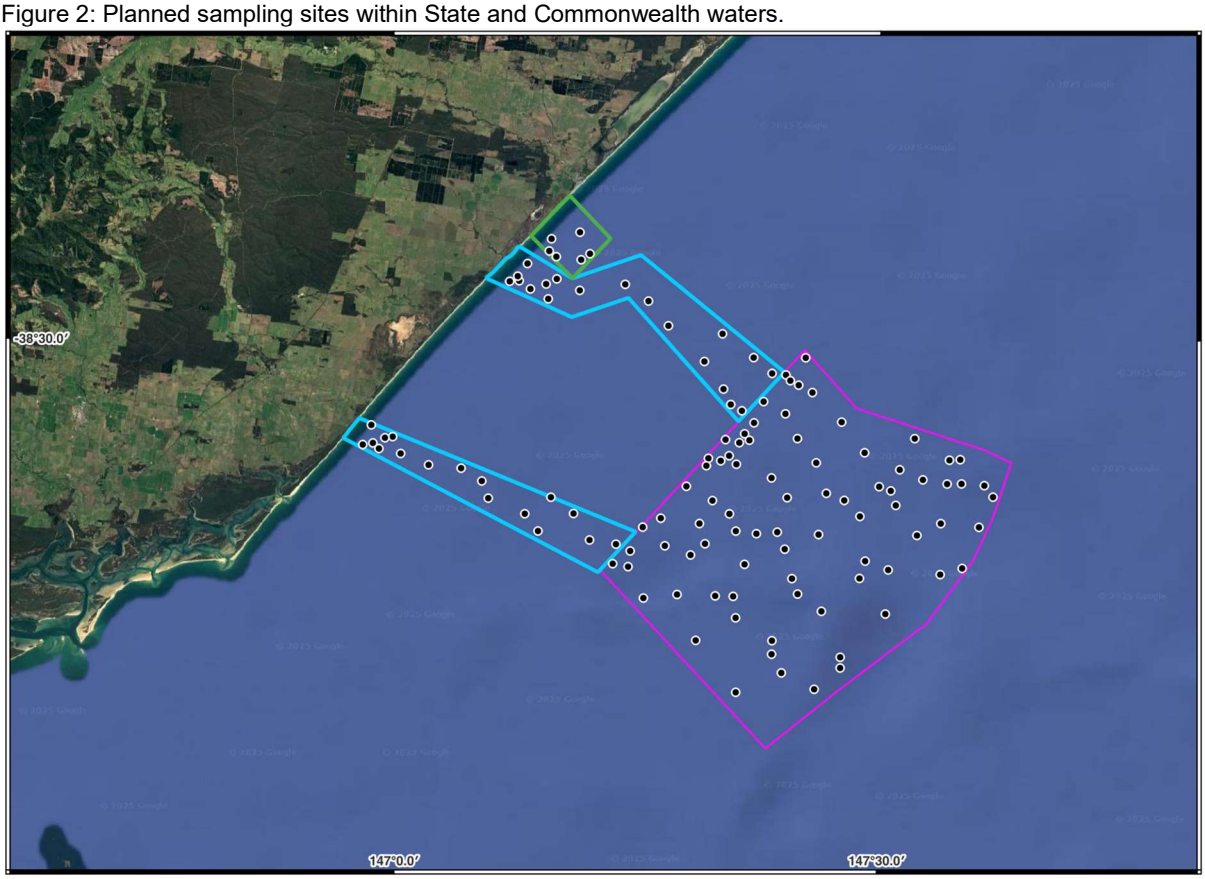
Figure 1: Operational area within 3NM



Safe Transport Victoria
PO Box 1716, Melbourne Victoria 3001 **T** 1800 638 802
E waterways@safetransport.vic.gov.au
safetransport.vic.gov.au

VICTORIA State Government

Figure 2: Planned sampling sites within State and Commonwealth waters.



MV Bass Trek (24m) will be engaged in the survey operations which will involve deployment of two Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUVs) and an acoustic monitoring buoy which will remain within visual range of the vessel. Vessel maneuverability will be limited when conducting operations. The Bass Trek will display appropriate day shapes and lights when under restricted ability to manoeuvre and will be monitoring VHF Channel 16. Vessel call sign is VKV6646.

Mariners are asked to be aware of the operational area during this period and maintain a distance of 500 metres from vessel operations.

AUS Charts and Publications Affected: AUS357, AU439147

Victorian Charts and publications affected: Nil

Emergency Contact details: MV Bass Trek operator can be contacted on VHF 16, vessel call sign VKV6646, phone: +61 (0) 475 782 758, or alternatively contact Mark Johnston, Scientist (Fathom Pacific), phone: +61 (0) 497 917 967, email: mark.johnston@fathompacific.com.

Further Notice: This Notice is self-cancelling. No further Notice will be issued.

KIRSTY HARRIS
Senior Safety Assurance Officer
Date: 03/02/2026