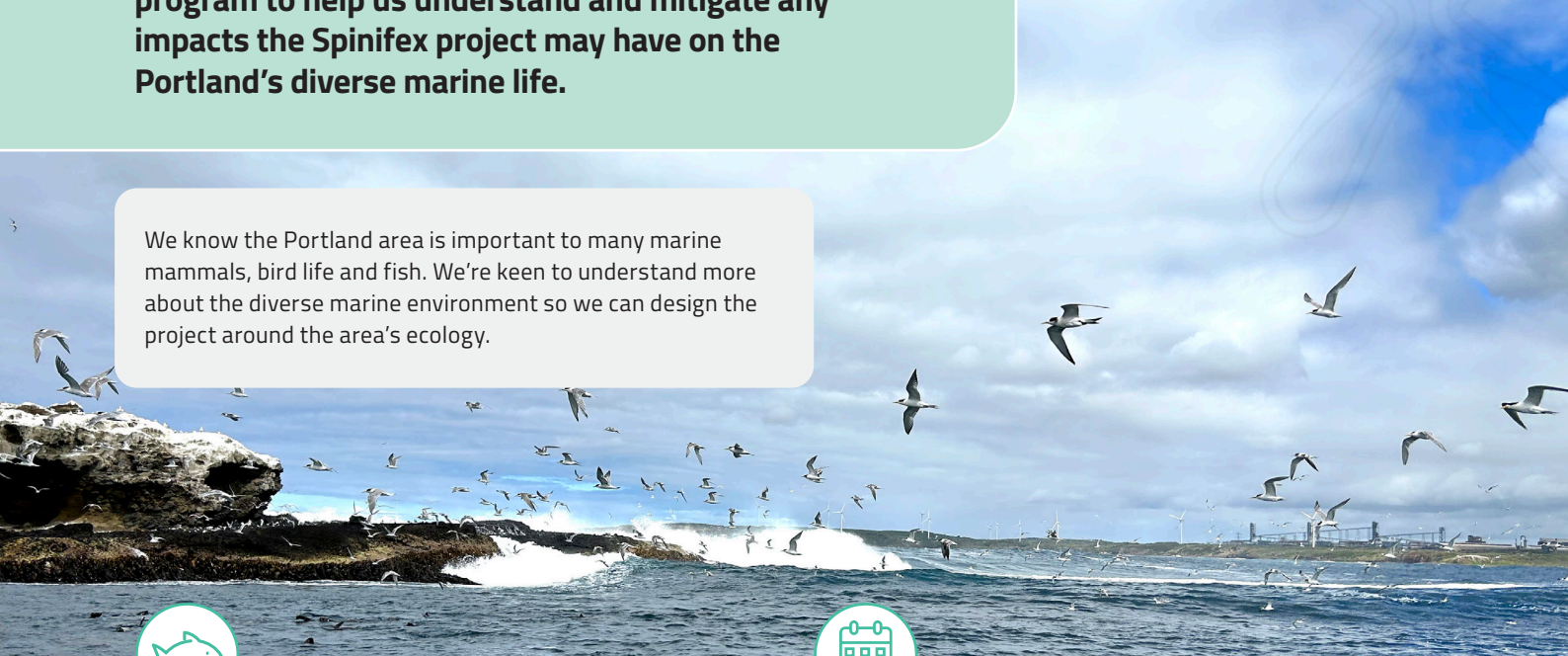


# Studying the marine ecology in Portland

**We're developing a marine ecology baseline survey program to help us understand and mitigate any impacts the Spinifex project may have on the Portland's diverse marine life.**

We know the Portland area is important to many marine mammals, bird life and fish. We're keen to understand more about the diverse marine environment so we can design the project around the area's ecology.



## What are baseline surveys?

Baseline surveys allow us to understand the environmental characteristics of an area and can cover a wide range of marine plants and animals, from plankton to whales, as well as bird life.



## How long do baseline surveys take?

Baseline surveys generally run for 2 to 3 years and are supported with historical data. This allows us to understand seasonal changes and the migration patterns of marine life, which may change from year to year.

## How studies will be used

This information will allow us to understand and reduce any potential impacts on the existing marine environment and help inform any mitigation measures we might need to put in place to manage potential impacts. The findings will inform part of our environmental assessments and be used by regulators to assess any potential impact of our offshore wind farm on species in the project area.



### Understand existing environment

Which species are present in the project area, how they're using it and at what time of the year



### Understand potential changes

Identifying potential changes in the existing environment from the project



### Manage impacts

Recommend strategies to reduce or avoid potential impacts



## What's involved?

We currently have general information about marine species in the area, based on existing regional research. However, we need more information on the marine environment specific to the Portland area. We're investing significant time and resources to understand the marine environment and the studies will provide information about which species are present in the project area, how they're using it and when they're present.

We'll be conducting a range of technical studies to research and analyse the current environment. This information will allow us to predict changes in the existing environment and identify potential benefits and impacts the project might have in that area.

### Some of our studies will likely include:



Visual aerial surveys  
(aeroplane spotters)



Acoustic monitoring  
(underwater instruments  
that listen to whale song)



Sea bird and seal tagging



Benthic studies (the  
ecological region from  
the shoreline down to  
the deep seafloor)




Portland

Deen Maar

Port Fairy

### FIND OUT MORE

If you'd like to find out more about the project, provide feedback or get involved in upcoming consultation activities, please visit our website or get in touch via:

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