

## **DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF POTENTIAL DRAFT ZONES FOR THE PROPOSED CAPES MARINE PARK**

The following document describes the proposals for draft zones in the proposed Capes Marine Park.

The zoning is still in a developmental stage and the Advisory Committee is seeking more information and feedback from the community and interested stakeholders to further refine the proposals.

Submissions from the community will be forwarded directly to the Advisory Committee for their consideration as they further refine their recommendations. Submissions must be forwarded to CALM no later than **8 April, 2004** to allow the Advisory Committee to see them prior to their meeting in Busselton on 29/30 April, 2004. In providing feedback on the proposed zones, please make your comments in the boxes provided.

### **WHY PROPOSE ZONING FOR MARINE PARKS?**

Zoning is one of seven strategies that are used to manage marine parks. In addition to zoning, the other strategies include: education, public participation, research, monitoring, enforcement, and direct management intervention (e.g. rehabilitation of damaged habitats).

How zoning is used depends on (1) what the overall goals are for the area, (2) the values being protected and managed, and (3) the current and future pressures these values experience.

To this end, the Advisory Committee has followed the following steps:

First, they developed a draft vision statement for the proposed Marine Park:

*To preserve for future generations the unique nature of our marine environment,  
supporting sustainable human endeavour and recognising cultural and spiritual values.*

Second, they identified the ecological and social values that they believe are important and should be maintained in the long term:

#### **Ecological Values:**

Invertebrates  
Finfish  
Coral communities  
Birds  
Marine mammals  
Estuaries  
Seagrass  
Intertidal sand communities/beaches  
Intertidal reefs  
Shallow reefs  
Deep reefs  
Water quality  
Geomorphology

#### **Social Values:**

Indigenous heritage  
Maritime heritage  
Marine nature-based tourism  
Commercial fishing  
Recreational fishing  
Mining  
Watersports  
Coastal use  
Lifestyle  
Wilderness and wildlife  
Seascapes  
Scientific research  
Education

Please note that this list of values includes both ecological and social values because the overall goal of WA's *multiple use* marine conservation reserves is to balance the protection of ecological values with sustainable human use.

Third, they identified pressures on these values and considered what would be the most effective strategies to manage these pressures. These strategies include:

- Education and Interpretation to promote understanding and appreciation of the marine environment, the ecological and social values of the park, the threats to these values and the need for protection. Flowing from the appreciation gained through education and interpretation programs, is increased awareness of the management zones and regulations in the park, and the reasons for these controls with the result that visitors will abide by the park regulations.
- Public participation to achieve conservation goals and promote sustainable use. It encompasses community action and responsibility for the marine environment, and builds knowledge and a sense of stewardship.
- Monitoring of key ecological values at risk and human usage in the marine park to ensure that human activities remain are sustainable and the ecological values are protected. Monitoring helps us understand when additional management intervention is needed.
- Research to obtain an understanding of the biodiversity within the park and the key ecological and social processes that occur. Research helps us understand what to do when monitoring indicates that intervention is required.
- Intervention programs to rehabilitate degraded habitats or declining populations. They can include interventions such as seagrass replanting and population enhancement. They rely on a strong understanding of the ecological communities to be restored.
- Enforcement programs complement interpretation and education programs, ensuring a high level of compliance with park regulations and stopping illegal activities where they occur.
- Administration strategies refer to the development of a management framework for the park that includes designation of a reserve category, identification of reserve boundaries, development of a suitable zoning scheme, and allocation of human and financial resources needed to manage the reserve.

The Advisory Committee identified a number of strategies that have a spatial component or, in other words, require zoning. Please note however that zoning does not occur in isolation. It is one of seven strategies that are collectively used to achieve the goals of the management plan.

Under the CALM Act, there are four types of zones: (1) sanctuary zones in which no extraction is allowed; (2) special purpose zones that identify priority activities and in which other activities are allowed as long as they do not negatively affect the priority activity; (3) recreation zones in which no commercial extractive activities are allowed; and (4) general use areas in which all activities compatible with the goals of the marine park are allowed.

## **DEVELOPMENT OF A PRELIMINARY ZONING PLAN FOR THE PROPOSED CAPES MARINE PARK**

The Advisory Committee have approached the development of the draft zoning recommendations on the basis of the following three principles:

- (1) Representative habitats should be adequately (i.e. of sufficient size) and comprehensively protected in sanctuary zones. To this end, five major regions were identified, each of which requires representation. These were: Geographe Bay, the West Coast between Cape Naturaliste and Cape Mentelle, the West Coast between Cape Mentelle and Cape Leeuwin, Flinders Bay and Hardy Inlet. It was also acknowledged that different and unique communities exist within these regions.
- (2) Zoning should be equitable, balancing the need for protection and sustainable use.
- (3) Zoning should be practical.

The following zones have been released to seek public feedback. If proposing alternatives to specific zones, please bear in mind the need for representation within the above five regions of the proposed marine park.

To date, the focus has been on sanctuary zones as these are the most difficult and need the greatest community input. The remainder of the marine park has not specifically been zoned and thus at this point can be considered as multiple use. This will be addressed as the zoning recommendations continue to evolve.

## GEOGRAPHE BAY

### (1) EASTERN GEOGRAPHE BAY Potential Sanctuary Zone

This zone was recommended as a sanctuary zone as it is representative of mixed perennial seagrass community dominated by *Posidonia sinuosa*. It includes areas of high and medium density and patches of limestone reef. It is typical of the communities found in the eastern area of Geographe Bay and, like much of the Bay, is influenced by rural activities within the catchment.

At the north eastern boundary of the proposed marine park in Geographe Bay, this potential zone is approximately 20 km<sup>2</sup> and extends from the high water mark (HWM) to the extent of the territorial sea (3 nautical miles). The depth varies across the area from approximately 2 to 20m. The northeastern boundary is located approximately 200 m from the "gravel patch" whilst the southwestern boundary is located near the mouth of the Wonnerup. As such, this area is influenced by the outflow from the Wonnerup and Vasse Estuaries.

#### *Issues/Discussion*

The area supports commercial fishing include gillnetting, wetlining and crabbing. There is also boat-based recreational fishing in the offshore areas. The relative importance of this area to these major user groups was however unclear and further information will be sought. Pending this additional information, no modifications have been made to the potential zone at this point.

Comments:

## **(2) BUSSELTON JETTY Potential Sanctuary Zone**

This potential zone was proposed to protect the unique artificial reef environment of the jetty. As a major existing tourist attraction, both the jetty and the underwater observatory have great educational potential for both divers and visitors to the observatory. The area is easily accessible such that people of various ages and mobility can experience a sanctuary zone. Most people will approach the park from the north (i.e from Perth) and the Jetty would be on of the first location for people's introduction to the marine park.

This potential sanctuary zone extends from the existing gate to 25 m beyond the end of the jetty, and 50 m either side of the jetty.

### *Issues/Discussion*

The end of the jetty is of importance to recreational fishers as it allows fishing during offshore breezes and reportedly yields larger more pelagic fish. The end of the jetty also has the best developed coral / invertebrate communities and concern was expressed about the effects of fishing on these communities (i.e. line entanglements damaging delicate invertebrates, rubbish).

The proposed zone is larger than that recommended by the Busselton Shire Council and would close the end of the Jetty to fishing if adopted. It was expanded given the high conservation values of the end of the jetty and importance to ecotourism (e.g. diving). Recognising that access to the end of the jetty for recreational fishing is a contentious issue, the advisory committee is seeking further feedback on this proposal.

Comments:

### **(3) CENTRAL GEOGRAPHE BAY: Potential Sanctuary Zone**

This zone was proposed as a potential sanctuary zone as it is representative of mixed perennial seagrass community dominated by *Posidonia sinuosa* and *Amphibolis* spp. It includes areas of high and medium density and patches of limestone reef. This area is typical of the seagrass communities influenced by the residential development along this area of the Bay.

West of Busselton, this potential zone is approximately 5.3 km<sup>2</sup>. The southern boundary of the potential sanctuary zone is located 1 km offshore, thereby allowing easy access to the shoreline in this area. The western boundary is approximately 3 km to the east of Toby Inlet.

#### *Issues/Discussion*

The area supports commercial fishing include gillnetting, wetlining and crabbing. The relative importance of this area for commercial fishing was however unclear and further information will be sought. Pending this additional information, no modifications have been made to the potential zone at this point.

Comments:

**(4) ELMORE ST: Potential Special Purpose Zone – fish nursery**

This area was recommended as a potential special purpose zone – fish nursery following input from the Department of Fisheries that inshore areas of wrack provide important nursery grounds for marine finfish.

Approximately 7 km west of potential Zone 3, this potential special purpose zone is approximately 1.2 km<sup>2</sup>. It runs along the shore for approximately 3.5 km, from the HWM to approximately 0.5 km offshore.

*Issues/Discussion*

There was discussion as to the precise location of the area identified as an important nursery ground and this needs to be confirmed with DoF.

The merits of having this zone in effect on a seasonal basis was also discussed.

Comments:

### **(5) EAGLE BAY / MEELUP: Potential Sanctuary Zone**

The area was recommended as a potential sanctuary zone as it includes representative areas of intertidal reef, dynamic sand / reef habitats, and wave exposed seagrass. It also contains unusual and rich sponge gardens and coral bommies, the Wreck of the Swan, and Meelup is a rare example of an east facing beach in WA. As part of the area also backs onto terrestrial nature reserve, it allows for the protection of an integrated strip from land to the extent of the territorial sea, protecting linkages across habitat types.

The area was also recommended as a potential sanctuary zone as it has great education potential. Meelup is a sheltered spot and very easily accessible to people of various ages and mobility to experience a sanctuary zone. There are also good facilities with toilets and carparks. Most people will approach the park from the north (i.e from Perth) and Meelup was considered a great location for people's first glance at a marine park. It was also thought that Meelup would be accepted by the majority of the community as a possible Sanctuary Zone and thus compliance would be facilitated.

This potential sanctuary zone is approximately 16 km<sup>2</sup> in size and includes parts of Eagle Bay, Meelup and east to Seagull Rock. From Gannet Rock to the northwestern boundary, the shoreward boundary runs 200 m offshore to allow for shorebased fishing activities. From east of Gannet Rock to Seagull Rock, the boundary is at the HWM. It extends seaward to the boundary of State waters and includes the Swan Wreck.

#### *Issues/Discussion*

The area around Eagle Bay and Meelup are important to a range of stakeholders. There were concerns raised in terms of commercial fishing, recreational fishing (shore-based and boat), diving and general beach use. The 200 m offset of the shoreward boundary in Eagle Bay was proposed to support commercial (salmon in particular) fishing and shore-based recreational fishing whilst closing the area around Meelup.

There was long consideration of alternative locations for a sanctuary zone to protect representative habitats of the western end of Geographe Bay and eastern side of Cape Naturaliste. It was felt that this area likely minimised social costs whilst providing strong conservation benefits. To this end, the Advisory Committee is seeking further input on this proposed zone.

Comments:



## THE WEST COAST: CAPE NATURALISTE TO CAPE MENTELLE

### (6) CAPE NATURALISTE: Potential Sanctuary Zone

This zone was established in response to submissions that highlighted the need to include areas of high biodiversity within sanctuary zones. Cape Naturaliste is characterised by mixed communities that include tropical species more commonly found in the State's north and subtropical / temperate species more typical of southern waters. There are a number of endemic corals that have been found in the area as well as the development of unusual macroalgal communities immediately off of the northern tip.

#### *Issues/Discussion*

The area was identified as being of great importance to recreational fishers (shore-based and boat-based) with the need of small-boat owners to seek shelter on the western side during certain weather patterns. The area was also identified as being of importance to abalone, western rock lobster, shark and wetlining commercial fishing.

Concern was also expressed that not enough of the shoreline / intertidal reef areas had been included within the proposed sanctuary zone.

Comments:

#### **(7) YALLINGUP REEF: Potential Sanctuary Zone**

This potential sanctuary zone is representative of the limestone inshore reef typical of the west coast north of Cape Mentelle. The area is thought to have high education potential given its sheltered nature and easy access.

The Yallingup reef area, approximately 0.12 km<sup>2</sup> in size, was recommended as a potential sanctuary zone. It extends the area currently managed under a Department of Fisheries Section 43 prohibition notice.

#### *Issues/Discussion*

Further feedback requested.

Comments:

#### **(8) INJIDUP: Potential Sanctuary Zone**

This zone was recommended as a potential sanctuary zone as it is representative of the west coast habitats north of Cape Mentelle. It includes representative areas of inshore granite reef, offshore granite reef and the nearshore dropoff. Offshore areas include mixed seagrass and rock communities between 30 and 50 m depth. Seagrass communities at this depth and on such high energy coasts are highly unusual.

Located on the northern section of the west coast, this potential sanctuary zone is approximately 19 km<sup>2</sup> in area. It runs from 200 m seaward of the HWM to the outer extent of State waters with the exception of Injidup Point where the boundary extends to the HWM. The southern boundary runs seaward from just south of Injidup Point while the northern boundary runs seaward from the northern point of the first headland north of Injidup Point.

#### *Issues/Dicussion*

The area is important to commercial fishing and recreational fishing interests (shore-based and boat-based). Additionally, Injidup Point is important to local Aboriginal communities.

Comments:

**(9) COWARAMUP: Potential Special Purpose Zone (Recreational activity)**

This potential special purpose zone was originally proposed as a sanctuary zone, representative of the granite inshore reef typical of the west coast north of Cape Mentelle. The area is thought to have high education potential given its sheltered nature and easy access. However, given the proximity of a permanent settlement and the high use of the area, it was subsequently proposed as a special purpose zone to ensure appropriate management of a high level of activity. Preliminary recommendations for activities in the area are limited to recreational line fishing for pelagic species and recreational freediving for crayfish.

The area is approximately 0.98 km<sup>2</sup> in size and extends beyond the headlands of the bay. It builds on an area currently managed under a Department of Fisheries Section 43 prohibition notice.

*Issues/Discussion*

There were strong arguments for the area's establishment as both a sanctuary zone and a special purpose zone. Additional focal consultation needs to be undertaken with the community to assess local views on the area's management and appropriate activities within the area.

Comments:

#### **(10) KILCARNUP: Potential Special Purpose Zone**

This potential special purpose zone was proposed in response to the submission from some members of the Augusta Margaret River Shire, in recognition of the area's high recreational value. Although activity levels are currently relatively low, it is expected that the area will become increasingly popular. Concern was also expressed for the existing damage to the fringing reef due to inappropriate boat launching. Note: special purpose status does not mean commercial and recreational fishing are excluded from the area. Appropriate activities will need to be identified through the consultation process.

The area is approximately 1.1 km<sup>2</sup> in size and includes approximately half of the Bay.

#### *Issues/Discussion*

Additional focal consultation will be undertaken with the Shire to identify appropriate management strategies for the area.

Comments:

## THE WEST COAST: CAPE NATURALISTE TO CAPE MENTELLE

### (11) GNARABUP: Potential Special Purpose Zone (Recreational activity)

This potential special purpose zone was proposed in response to the submission from some members of the Augusta Margaret River Shire, in recognition of the high level of recreational activity in the area. Note: special purpose status does not mean commercial and recreational fishing are excluded from the area. Appropriate activities will need to be identified through the consultation process.

The area is approximately 3.4 km<sup>2</sup> in size and includes the areas subject to greatest use in the area.

#### *Issues/Discussion*

Additional focal consultation will be undertaken with the Shire to identify appropriate management strategies for the area.

Comments:

**(12) CAPE FREYCINET: Potential Sanctuary Zone**

The area was proposed as a potential sanctuary zone as it is representative of the inshore and offshore limestone and granite reefs typical of the West Coast south of Cape Mentelle. Further offshore, there are also unusual deep seagrass communities dominated by *Thalassodendrum* spp.

The zone was originally proposed for the area from just south of Isaac's Rock to midway along Cape Freycinet and extending from 200 m seaward of the HWM to the limit of State waters. However, to reduce impacts on commercial fishing and shore-based fishing, particularly access at Bob's Hollow and Contos, the zone was shifted south by 1 nautical mile. To this end, the zone now captures areas offshore of a headland and sandy beach. The area proposed for the sanctuary zone is 39 km<sup>2</sup>.

*Issues/Discussion*

The area proposed for the sanctuary zone has been identified as important to the western rock lobster, abalone and shark commercial fishing and shore-based and boat-based recreational fishing. In particular, the shoreline including and north of Cape Freycinet are heavily used for recreational fishing.

Comments:

**(13) HAMELIN BAY: Potential Special Purpose Zone (benthic protection and management of multiple use)**

Hamelin Bay was identified as an area within which human activities needed to be managed carefully given the presence of a boat ramp (commercial and recreational) and large numbers of swimmers and other activities. Hamelin Bay is one of the most visited parts of the Southwest and it was felt that the area was not being sustainably used at the moment. It was noted that a comprehensive management scheme was needed due to the high usage and potential problems in the future. Therefore a Special Purpose Zone was proposed to be able to achieve such outcomes.

Additionally, the seagrass beds are distinct from those found in Geographe Bay and the area is becoming popular for currently unmanaged interactions with rays.

An area of approximately 5.4 km<sup>2</sup> was identified as a potential special purpose zone. The area extends from the southern point of Hamelin Bay and encompasses Hamelin Island.

*Issues/Discussion*

The main issue cited was to manage boat traffic in the area to reduce conflict between boat and snorkellers and other usage. Using boat channels and speed limits in a boating management plan would be useful since the boat ramp is situated in the middle of many activities. One suggestion was to remove the opportunity for boats to moor inside of the rocks but it was concluded that the mooring boats were generally not the problem boats since they did not need to cross the bay.

A stingray protection program was also considered as part of a management plan for the area, as was a possible jetski exclusion zone.

Specific management recommendations will be developed for the area in close consultation with local residents, the Shire and other interested stakeholders.

Comments:



**(14) HAMELIN BAY: Potential Sanctuary Zone**

This potential sanctuary zone was proposed in recognition of the high conservation values of the intertidal areas and inshore reefs around Hamelin Island and the need to protect representative areas of shoreline within in the Marine Park. The area is representative of the granite country found from south of Hamelin Bay to Cape Leeuwin. Its proximity to the proposed special purpose zone in Hamelin Bay should also facilitate compliance.

The area is approximately 0.04 km<sup>2</sup> and follows the western side of Hamelin Island.

Comments:

#### **(15) COSY CORNER: Potential Sanctuary Zone**

Cosy Corner was proposed as a potential Sanctuary Zone as it is representative of the inshore rocky habitats south of Cape Mentelle and is considered to have high conservation values given its very special location and sheltered embayment. It includes a headland, limestone reef and limestone bombies with well developed cave formations.

The area was moved northwards from its original position reflecting concerns of commercial fishing interests. The shift northwards meant a gain of headland and limestone reef that was underrepresented. The area is 1.5 km<sup>2</sup>.

#### *Issues/Discussion*

The headland area is used by recreational fishermen and further consultation will be required in Augusta with respect to this area.

Comments:

#### **(16) CAPE LEEUWIN: Potential Sanctuary Zone**

This zone was established in response to submissions that highlighted the need to include areas of high biodiversity within sanctuary zones. Cape Leeuwin is characterised by mixed communities species typical of the west coast of WA and species found only in southern Australia. There are a number of invertebrates thought to occur only in this area. It is also representative of the onshore and offshore communities found south of Cape Mentelle.

This potential sanctuary zone is approximately 20 km<sup>2</sup> in size. It starts at the Cape and extends westwards.

##### *Issues/Discussion*

The area was identified as being of great importance to the western rock lobster and shark fisheries.

Concern was also expressed that not enough of the shoreline / intertidal reef areas had been included within the proposed sanctuary zone.

Comments:

**(17) FLINDERS ISLAND: Potential Sanctuary Zone**

The area is representative of the offshore intertidal / island habitats of the southern West Coast. It is an area with particularly spectacular arches and cave systems and is considered a very important breeding and nursery ground for both demersal reef species and pelagic species. The islands are also habitats for mammal colonies.

It was originally recommended that a larger area (13 km<sup>2</sup>) be established as a Special Purpose Zone – finfish conservation area. Commercial and recreational extraction of invertebrates would be permitted but finfishing using any gear, recreational and commercial, would be excluded.

Due to potential compliance difficulties and a desire to avoid partial closures where possible, it was recommended to be proposed as a sanctuary zone. The current proposed area is 2.4 km<sup>2</sup>.

*Issues/Discussion*

Additional consultation with commercial fishing stakeholders will be required.

Comments:

## FLINDERS BAY

### (18) EAST FLINDERS BAY: Potential Sanctuary Zone

This proposed area is representative of the seagrass and “shaley” rock areas of Flinders Bay and includes some of the south coast beach system. The area is highly dynamic area and the seagrass communities found in this area are well adapted to a high energy environment. These seagrass communities are also considered to be an important nursery area for many species and are distinct from those found in Geographe Bay.

An area was originally considered to the west of the current proposal. However, in recognition of the strong recreational values of this area and the need to include representative areas of shoreline, the zone was moved to the east where it was felt it captures similar values. The current proposed area is approximately 8.3 km<sup>2</sup>.

#### *Issues/Discussion*

Need to determine the relative importance of the area to commercial fishing stakeholders.

Comments:

## **HARDY INLET**

### **(19) DEAD WATER / SWAN LAKE: Potential Sanctuary Zone**

This area is representative of highly productive estuarine habitat that is important both as a nursery area and for birdlife.

The area consists of approximately 0.9 km<sup>2</sup> and would begin to the east of the river mouth and enclose both bodies of water. Recognising that the area is mobile, it may be necessary to reassess the boundaries in the future.

#### *Issues/Discussion*

There is a waterskiing area on the Dead Water and this use would have to be resolved. Further consultation with the Shire and Augusta community will also be necessary. Tenure of Swan Lake will also need to be determined.

Comments:

**(20) POINT PEDDER / CENTRAL HARDY INLET: Potential Sanctuary Zone**

The area is representative of estuarine habitats including samphire marsh, sand shoals, lagoon tidal flats. It is an important area for waders and thought to be a productive nursery ground.

The area is approximately 1.6 km<sup>2</sup> and is bounded by Point Pedder to the north, the channel along the east and Thomas Island to the south.

*Issues/Discussion*

Need to determine the relative importance of the area to commercial fishing stakeholders.

Comments:

**Overall Comments on entire draft zoning proposal:**