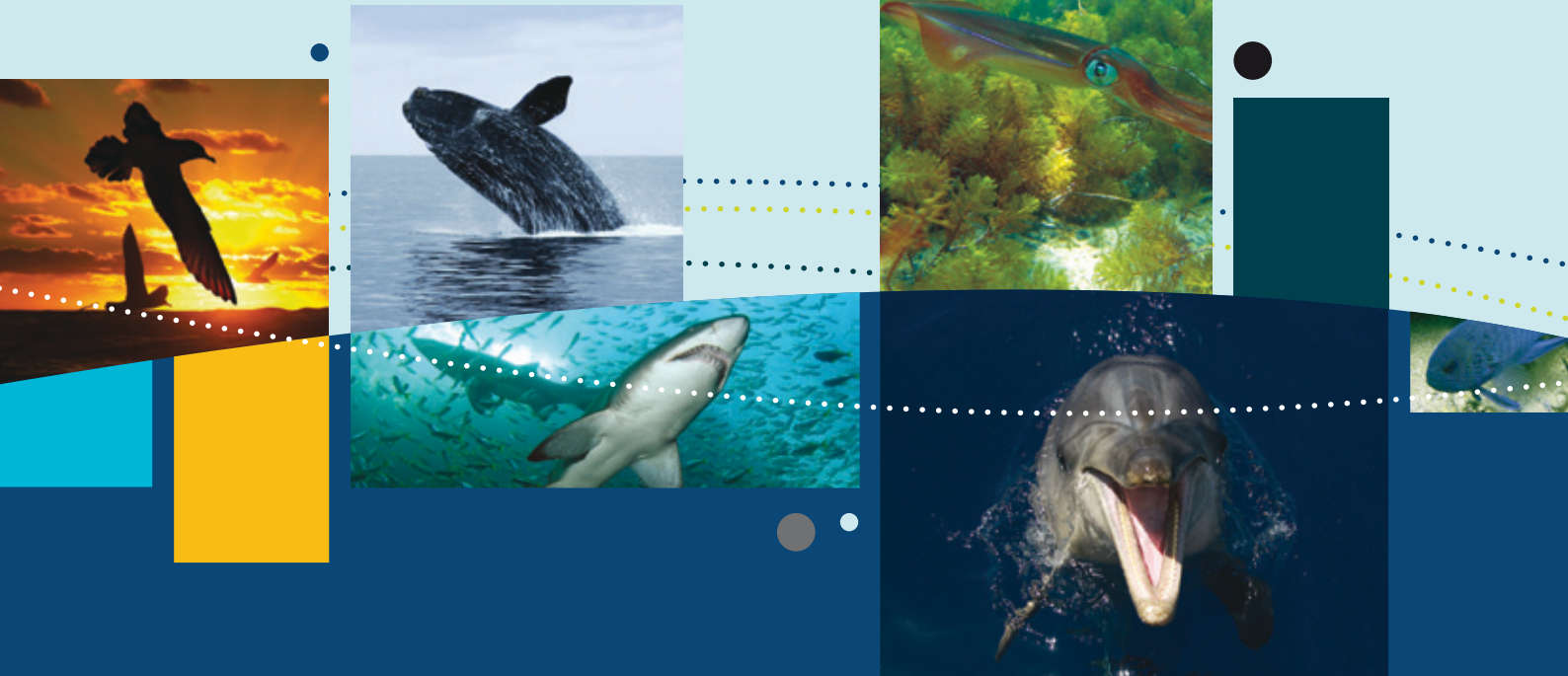




Australian Government
Director of National Parks



Draft South-west Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network management plan 2014–24

© Director of National Parks 2013

This document may be cited as:

Director of National Parks 2013, *Draft South-west Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network Management Plan 2014-24*, Director of National Parks, Canberra.

Photography credits

Front cover: Flesh footed shearwater – Richard Freeman, Southern right whale – Dave Watts, Grey nurse shark – David Harasti, Southern calamari squid – Anthony King, Dolphin – Richard Freeman, Southern blue devil – MLSSA/Antony King.

Back cover: Capes seagrass – Marine Futures WA, Marine life – CSIRO, Blue whale – DSEWPAC, Australian Sea Lion – Glen Cowan, Tern common – Richard Freeman.

This draft Management Plan is copyright. Apart from any use permitted under the Copyright Act 1968, no part may be reproduced by any process without prior written permission from the Director of National Parks. Requests and enquires concerning reproduction and rights should be addressed to:

Manager
South-west Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network
GPO Box 787
Canberra ACT 2601

Invitation to comment on the draft South-west Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network Management Plan

The South-west Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network comprises 14 marine reserves. The proclamation of the reserves came into effect on 17 November 2012. The network incorporates the Great Australian Bight Marine Park, originally proclaimed in 1998.

The primary purpose of the South-west Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network is to protect and maintain biological diversity, while also allowing for the sustainable use of natural resources in some areas. The reserves include a vast range of ecosystems, habitats and biological communities representative of the South-west Marine Region and the southernmost parts of the North-west Marine Region. The reserves will help ensure our marine environment remains healthy and more resilient to the effects of climate change and other pressures.

This draft Management Plan has been developed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (s. 366) and provides a framework for the management of the South-west Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network as a whole. In preparing this draft Management Plan, the Director of National Parks has considered:

- the Marine Bioregional Plans for the South-west and the North-west Marine Regions, which were completed in 2012, and associated information
- the report prepared for the proclamation of the Commonwealth Marine Reserves within the South-west Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network
- the proclamations and purposes governing the use of each marine reserve within the South-west Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network
- the previous Management Plan for the Great Australian Bight Marine Park (Commonwealth Waters)
- the protection and conservation of biodiversity and heritage in accordance with Australia's obligations under international agreements
- the impact on current uses
- the interests of owners, leaseholders and holders of usage rights
- the interests of Traditional Owners of any Indigenous people's land in the reserves and any other Indigenous persons interested in the network
- public comments received on the initial proposal to prepare a draft Management Plan (comment period from 17 November to 18 December 2012).

This draft Management Plan includes a description of the South-west Marine Region, the values of the South-west Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network and the known pressures affecting the marine environment. It includes the suite of management objectives, strategies, actions and management prescriptions that will be implemented over the 10-year life of the Management Plan to protect the conservation values of the reserves network.

The Director of National Parks invites public comment on the draft management plan.

All comments received will be considered and the draft management plan may be revised accordingly. To ensure your comments are clear and concise please:

- list your points in order, numbered according to the relevant sections or prescriptions (strategies and actions) of the draft plan
- state whether you agree or disagree with prescriptions and give your reasons
- if you disagree, suggest alternatives
- include any matters relevant to management of the reserves in the South-west Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network that are not covered by the draft plan.

There are two ways to submit feedback:

- Email your comments to:

Southwest.draftplan@environment.gov.au

- Post your comments free of charge to:

Draft South-west Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network Management Plan,
Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities

Reply Paid 787

Canberra ACT 2601

Comments on the draft management plan for the South-west Marine Reserves Network must be sent by 14 February 2013. Comments sent after this date or to addresses other than those above cannot be taken into account in finalising the management plan.

Please note that all comments may be treated as public documents and may be made public on the department's website.

This draft Management Plan is available at www.environment.gov.au/marinereserves and from the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities by telephoning the Community Information line on 1800 069 352.

Charlton Clark

Assistant Secretary

Commonwealth Marine Reserves Branch

Marine Division

Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities

Delegate of the Director of National Parks

CONTENTS

Part 1	Introduction.....	7
1.1	Structure of this Management Plan.....	9
1.2	Objectives of the Management Plan.....	9
1.3	Introductory provisions for the South-west marine reserves network	10
Part 2	Description of the Environment, Values and Pressures in the South-west Marine Reserves Network.....	11
2.1	Description of the South-west Marine Region environment.....	11
2.2	Social, cultural and economic values.....	11
2.3	Values of the South-west Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network	13
2.4	Pressures on the conservation values of the South-west Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network.....	22
Part 3	IUCN Categories and Zoning of the Network Reserves.....	24
	Categories and zones.....	26
Part 4	Management Strategies.....	27
	Strategy 1—Improve knowledge and understanding of the conservation values of the marine reserve and of the pressures on those values.....	29
	Strategy 2—Minimise impacts of allowable activities through effective assessment of proposals, decision-making and management of reserve specific issues.....	30
	Strategy 3—Protect the conservation values of the marine reserve through management of environmental incidents.....	32
	Strategy 4—Facilitate compliance with this Management Plan through education and enforcement.....	33
	Strategy 5—Promote community understanding of, and stakeholder participation in, the management of the marine reserve.....	34
	Strategy 6 - Support involvement of Indigenous people in management of Commonwealth Marine Reserves.....	35
	Strategy 7—Evaluate and report on the effectiveness of this Management Plan through monitoring and review.....	36
Part 5	Managing Use of the South-West Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network	37
5.1	Outline of Part 5.....	37
5.2	Permits and class approvals for allowable activities.....	40
5.3	General use of and access to the South-west Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network	42
5.4	Commercial shipping.....	43
5.5	Commercial fishing and aquaculture.....	44
5.6	Commercial tourism (including charter fishing tours) and commercial media.....	47
5.7	Recreational fishing (including clients of charter fishing tours and organised fishing competitions).....	49
5.8	Mining operations (including exploration).....	51
5.9	Structures and works.....	53
5.10	Research and monitoring activities.....	55
5.11	Defence, border protection, law enforcement and emergency response..	57
5.12	New activities and authorisations.....	58

Appendix A	South-West Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network – Descriptions, Values and Map.....	60
	Southern Kangaroo Island Commonwealth Marine Reserve.....	61
	Western Kangaroo Island Commonwealth Marine Reserve.....	62
	Western Eyre Commonwealth Marine Reserve.....	64
	Murat Commonwealth Marine Reserve.....	67
	Great Australian Bight Commonwealth Marine Reserve.....	69
	Twilight Commonwealth Marine Reserve.....	72
	Eastern Recherche Commonwealth Marine Reserve.....	74
	Bremer Commonwealth Marine Reserve.....	77
	South-west Corner Commonwealth Marine Reserve.....	80
	Geographe Commonwealth Marine Reserve.....	83
	Perth Canyon Commonwealth Marine Reserve.....	85
	Two Rocks Commonwealth Marine Reserve.....	88
	Jurien Commonwealth Marine Reserve.....	90
	Abrolhos Commonwealth Marine Reserve.....	93
Appendix B	Legislative Framework for the Reserves Network.....	96
	EPBC Act.....	96
	Other relevant laws.....	102
	International agreements.....	103
Glossary.....		106
Supporting Information.....		108

PART 1

INTRODUCTION

Australia has one of the largest marine jurisdictions in the world, containing a vast array of diverse and unique biological and physical features. Our marine environments range from tropical seas in the north to sub-Antarctic waters in the south. These waters are home to a wealth of biodiversity, much of it found nowhere else. The South-west Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network has been established to protect examples of the biodiversity, habitats and ecosystems of the South-west region and parts of the North-west and South-east regions.

The South-west Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network forms part of Australia's National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas (NRSMPA). The establishment of the NRSMPA has been ongoing since 1998 when the Australian, state and Northern Territory governments agreed to its creation. The states and the Northern Territory governments are establishing marine protected areas in their coastal waters, while the Australian Government has established marine protected areas in Commonwealth waters around Australia. Commonwealth waters start at the outer edge of state and territory waters, generally three nautical miles (5.5 kilometres) from the shore (territorial sea baseline), and extend to the outer boundary of Australia's exclusive economic zone, 200 nautical miles from the territorial sea baseline. The Commonwealth marine area is defined in s.24 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

The NRSMPA aims to meet Australia's international commitments as a signatory to the Convention on Biological Diversity to establish a representative system of marine protected areas within Australia's exclusive economic zone.

The creation and management of marine reserves is an important strategy for the conservation and ecologically sustainable use of the marine environment. Marine reserves, when well designed and managed effectively, make an important contribution to maintaining the overall health and resilience of our oceans. The primary goal of the NRSMPA is to establish and manage a comprehensive, adequate and representative system of marine protected areas to contribute to the long-term ecological viability of marine and estuarine systems, to maintain ecological processes and systems, and to protect Australia's biological diversity at all levels.

Marine reserves are just one of a wide range of tools that support the conservation and ecologically sustainable use of the marine environment and its biodiversity. Other key tools include the adoption of ecosystem-based fisheries management, actions to recover threatened species and actions to avoid or mitigate pressures such as invasive species, marine debris and land-based sources of pollution. There is substantial protection for the marine environment and threatened and migratory species under the EPBC Act, as well as under sectoral legislation at the Commonwealth and state level.

The South-west Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network was established in 2012. The network was proclaimed for the purpose of protecting and maintaining marine biodiversity, while allowing for the sustainable use of natural resources in some areas.

The South-west Marine Reserves Network (Figure 1.1) comprises 14 Commonwealth marine reserves proclaimed under s.344 of the EPBC Act. Together these reserves represent examples of ecosystems of the South-west, North-west and South-east Marine Regions. The 14 reserves are:

- Southern Kangaroo Island Commonwealth Marine Reserve
- Western Kangaroo Island Commonwealth Marine Reserve
- Western Eyre Commonwealth Marine Reserve
- Murat Commonwealth Marine Reserve
- Great Australian Bight Commonwealth Marine Reserve, incorporating the previous Great Australian Bight Marine Park (Commonwealth Waters)
- Twilight Commonwealth Marine Reserve

- Eastern Recherche Commonwealth Marine Reserve
- Bremer Commonwealth Marine Reserve
- South-west Corner Commonwealth Marine Reserve
- Geographe Commonwealth Marine Reserve
- Perth Canyon Commonwealth Marine Reserve
- Two Rocks Commonwealth Marine Reserve
- Jurien Commonwealth Marine Reserve
- Abrolhos Commonwealth Marine Reserve

The Director of National Parks (the Director) is required to prepare a Management Plan for each Commonwealth reserve under the EPBC Act (ss.366 and 367). The EPBC Act allows a single Management Plan to be prepared to cover a number of reserves. This approach has been adopted for marine reserves as it allows reserves to be managed at a scale that accommodates the dynamics and connectivity of marine ecosystems. The network approach also establishes consistent management arrangements across all reserves within the network.

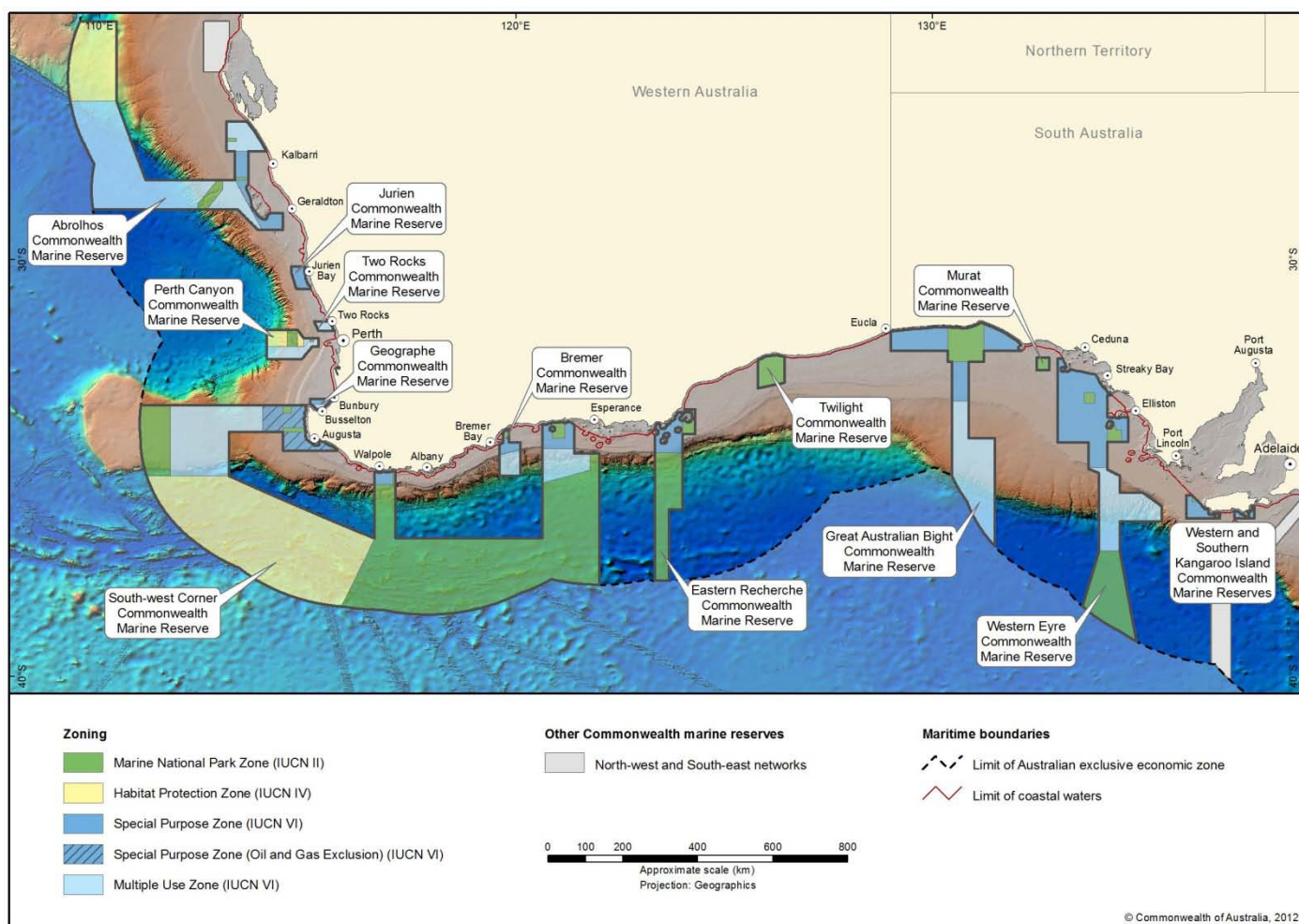


Figure 1.1: South-west Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network

1.1 Structure of this Management Plan

The Management Plan provides a broad description of the South-west Marine Region and a summary of regional features represented in the South-west marine reserves network (see Part 2). It also identifies the conservation values protected by the network. The Plan includes information about pressures and potential threats to these values, which require active management and monitoring over time to ensure the objectives of this Management Plan are achieved.

This Management Plan assigns an International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) category to each marine reserve in the South-west marine reserves network, in accordance with the requirements of s.367(1)(a) of the EPBC Act (see Part 3). When a reserve is divided into zones, each zone is also assigned an IUCN category. The Australian IUCN reserve management principles, prescribed in Schedule 8 of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000 (EPBC Regulations), provide administrative guidance for managing Commonwealth reserves, and also define broadly what activities are allowable in each reserve and zone and under what circumstances they may be undertaken.

Zoning is a fundamental planning tool in managing marine reserves and defines what activities can occur in which locations so as to protect the marine environment and to provide for ecologically sustainable use where this is allowed. Detailed information about the zoning arrangements is provided in Part 3 of this Plan. Maps and descriptions for individual reserves are provided in Appendix A.

The management plan outlines the management strategies and actions for research and monitoring, assessment and permitting, compliance, community participation, Indigenous involvement and environmental management (see Part 4). These strategies and actions provide the framework for achieving the plan's objectives and outcomes. This Management Plan also allows for management of local scale, reserve-specific issues during the life of the Management Plan, as management needs change over time.

Included in this management plan are the management prescriptions applying to activities associated with human use in the reserves network. These management prescriptions provide the specific detail for how activities are allowed to occur in the reserves network and of prohibited activities in the marine reserves network (see Part 5). Together with Parts 3 and 4, Part 5 of the Plan provides certainty of management intentions, while providing for flexibility to adapt management responses to emerging needs over the life of the management plan. Legislative context and international agreements that influence the management of the reserves network are provided in Appendix B.

1.2 Objectives of the Management Plan

The objectives of the Management Plan are intended to provide clear direction for management of the marine reserves network. The objectives of this Management Plan are to:

- 1 provide for the protection and conservation of biodiversity and other natural and cultural values of the South-west marine reserves network; and**
- 2 provide for sustainable use of the natural resources within the South-west marine reserves network where this is consistent with objective 1.**

The management strategies and actions outlined in Part 4 and the management prescriptions outlined in Part 5 aim to achieve the objectives of this Plan.

1.3 Introductory provisions for the South-west marine reserves network

1.3.1 Short title

This Management Plan may be cited as the South-west Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network management plan or, the South-west marine reserves network management plan.

1.3.2 Commencement and termination

This Management Plan will come into operation on 1 July 2014. The Plan will cease to have effect 10 years after commencement, unless revoked sooner or replaced with a new Management Plan.

1.3.3 Interpretation

Definitions of terms, concepts, legislation and abbreviations used in this Management Plan are provided in the Glossary.

PART 2

DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT, VALUES AND PRESSURES IN THE SOUTH-WEST MARINE RESERVES NETWORK

2.1 Description of the South-west Marine Region environment

The South-west marine reserves network is located mostly within the South-west Marine Region and extends at its margins into both the North-west and South-east Marine Regions. It incorporates Commonwealth waters extending from the eastern most end of Kangaroo Island, off South Australia, to the waters offshore of Shark Bay in Western Australia.

The South-west Marine Region covers approximately 1.3 million square kilometres of temperate waters and abuts the coastal waters of Western and South Australia.

The region encompasses very diverse and complex environments including over its continental shelf, continental slope, continental rise and the abyssal plains, with the Diamantina Fracture Zone, the largest underwater mountain chain in the oceans surrounding Australia, reaching depths of over 6000 metres. The continental slope of the region is incised by a large number of submarine canyons and includes Australia's largest underwater canyon, the Perth Canyon, also known as the Rottneest Trench. The South-west Marine Region is strongly influenced by the Leeuwin Current and its interactions with seafloor features, the low level of run-off from the land and the relatively stable recent geological history.

The region is vast and is renowned for some of the most diverse temperate marine ecosystems on Earth. Examples include the unique mix of temperate and tropical marine species that inhabit the waters off the Houtman Abrolhos Islands; the marine science frontier of the deep rugged mountains of the Diamantina Fracture; and the world's richest known temperate soft-sediment communities in the Great Australian Bight. By global standards, the marine environment of the South-west Marine Region has high biodiversity and large numbers of species found only in the region (known as endemism). Particular hotspots for biodiversity are the Houtman Abrolhos Islands, the overlap between tropical and temperate fauna along the west coast, the Recherche Archipelago and the soft sediment ecosystems in the Great Australian Bight. The region provides important calving regions for the endangered southern right whale and colonies of Australia's only endemic pinniped – the Australian sea lion. The south-west corner of the region is an important area for beaked whales. Other protected species known to occur in the region include white shark, humpback whale and several species of albatross.

2.2 Social, cultural and economic values

The waters of the South-west Marine Region are important for their cultural and social values and for their economic contributions to Australia and the region. The activities and industries of most significance within the South-west marine reserves network, based on the resources and values of the region include (in alphabetical order):

- **Aquaculture:** most aquaculture occurs within state waters adjacent to the region, although there is some interest in assessing the potential for aquaculture in deeper, more exposed sites. Aquaculture activities in the South-west Marine Region include tuna grow out, offshore finfish and inshore scallop.

- Commercial fishing: commercial wild-catch fishing is the most widespread activity in the South-west Marine Region. Over 20 commercial fisheries operate in the region. The most valuable fisheries in the South-west Marine Region target the western rock lobster, tuna and abalone. Fishing effort is relatively evenly distributed across the region, with the highest effort concentrated along the Western Australian west coast, particularly just north of Perth, and around the shelf break in the Great Australian Bight. Fishing in offshore, oceanic waters is predominantly pelagic tuna longline. The South-west Marine Region incorporates a diverse range of communities that are linked to the fishing industry. This includes urban centres - for example, large metropolitan cities such as Perth - to small port hamlets like Windy Harbour that are scattered along the coastline. Towns such as Port Lincoln and Geraldton developed to support the commercial fishing industry.
- Commercial tourism and charter fishing: a broad range of marine tourism activities take place in the South-west Marine Region, including water sports such as sailing, snorkeling, scuba diving, cruise lining and whale, seal and dolphin watching. Charter vessel activity in South Australia and Western Australia is concentrated around the major population centres and caters for both domestic and overseas clients.
- Indigenous Use: the marine environment has played a central role for coastal communities since long before European settlement. Indigenous people from several distinct Aboriginal people groups and clans have lived adjacent to the oceans of the South-west Marine Region for thousands of years.
- Petroleum and mining: the South-west Marine Region is not one of Australia's most significant resource areas for petroleum. The region includes one active production well, several areas of active exploration and areas of medium to high prospectivity where exploration is likely to increase in the future. Oil production and transport are expected to increase in the region. The main petroleum deposits in the region occur in the Bremer Sub-basin, Perth Basin, Mentelle Basin and Bight Basin.
- Ports and commercial shipping: many major ports in the region, including the largest port in the region, the Port of Fremantle, are either in the process of expanding or are earmarked for expansion in order to service the expanding mining industry in Western Australia. Ports in Albany, Bunbury, Esperance and Geraldton are important for shipping minerals and agricultural commodities. In South Australia, the Port of Adelaide is the second busiest port in the region, with a number of smaller important ports, such as Port Lincoln, located throughout the state. Coastal and offshore development associated with strong economic growth throughout Western Australia is expected to continue at a rapid pace. Shipping traffic in the South-west Marine Region, particularly of large vessels, is expected to increase.
- Recreational use: the region has important social values for people living in adjacent communities. Many frequently visit the coast, with some travelling long distances offshore beyond the sight of land. A wide range of recreational activities occur within the region, including snorkelling, scuba diving, whale, seal and dolphin watching, yachting and charter fishing. Recreational fishing is a popular activity in the South-west Marine Region, although most recreational fishing occurs in state waters adjacent to the region. The Perth Canyon, or Rottneest Trench as it is commonly referred to, is a significant location for demersal and pelagic game fishing tournaments. Geographe Bay in the south of Western Australia and Scaale Bay in South Australia are also key areas for recreational fishing communities.

The South-west Marine Region attracts a range of other uses, including scientific research and commercial activities. One submarine telecommunications cable linking Australia with South-East Asia is operational and classified as a cable of national significance. The cable runs from Perth to Jakarta and intersects with the Abrolhos Commonwealth Marine Reserve and a small portion of the Perth Canyon Commonwealth Marine Reserve. The region also has significant potential for other economic uses including renewable energy (wind and wave power), carbon capture and storage and biotechnology, which all may become significant in the future.

The Australian Defence Force uses the entire marine estate in the course of its activities, with specific areas set aside for training activities. Within the South-west Marine Region there is a large training area off the coast from Perth known as the Western Australian Exercise Area. This area overlaps with the Perth Canyon marine reserve.

2.3 Values represented in the South-west Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network

The South-west marine reserves network covers 508 605 km² of Australia's sub-tropical and temperate environments.

The South-west marine reserves network was designed in accordance with the *Goals and Principles for the establishment of the National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas in Commonwealth waters*¹ to represent the region's biodiversity as it varies across provincial bioregions, depth ranges, large scale biological and ecological features and seafloor features. The network also protects habitats important for threatened species and some places listed under national environmental legislation for their heritage values.

2.3.1 Provincial bioregions

Provincial bioregions² are large areas of the oceans with broadly similar characteristics that have been classified by scientists based on the distribution of fish and other marine species, seafloor types and ocean conditions. The South-west marine reserves network represents nine provincial bioregions:

- Central Western Shelf Transition – is located within a significant biogeographic transition between tropical and temperate species. Marine turtles, dugongs and dolphins frequently visit the Ningaloo reef lagoon and whale sharks and manta rays visit the outer reef. This bioregion is represented in the Abrolhos Commonwealth Marine Reserve.
- Central Western Transition - covers the continental slope and abyss between Shark Bay and North West Cape. Almost half the bioregion has water depths of more than 4000 m and the proximity of deep ocean areas to the continental slope and shelf may have resulted in distinctive biological communities. The Leeuwin Current, flowing south along the slope, is the dominant oceanographic feature. This bioregion is also within the biogeographic transition between tropical and temperate marine species. This bioregion is represented in the Abrolhos Commonwealth Marine Reserve.
- Southwest Shelf Transition – covers the continental shelf extending seaward from Kalbarri to Perth. Its ecology is heavily influenced by the Leeuwin Current, which carries subtropical and tropical species southward. Here they mix with temperate species to form diverse and unique biological communities, such as those surrounding the Houtman Abrolhos Islands. This bioregion is represented in the Abrolhos, Jurien, Two Rocks and Perth Canyon Commonwealth Marine Reserves.
- Central Western Province – extends from the Southwest Shelf Transition to the limit of the Australian exclusive economic zone. The continental slope is cut by numerous canyons, including the Perth Canyon, the largest of Australia's submarine canyons. The bioregion is characterised by numerous eddies (circulating bodies of water, about 200-300 kilometres in diameter) that detach from the Leeuwin Current, trapping shallow water biological communities and nutrients and transporting them offshore. The Perth Canyon appears to be an important ecological feature attracting krill and fish aggregations that in turn attract larger species such as predatory fish and pygmy blue whales. This bioregion is represented in the Abrolhos, Jurien and Perth Canyon Commonwealth Marine Reserves.
- Southwest Shelf Province - extends over a long stretch of continental shelf southwards from Fremantle and around to Point Dempster, east of Esperance. Marine life in the bioregion is highly diverse and influenced by the warm waters of the Leeuwin Current. It includes globally important biodiversity hotspots, such as the waters off Geographe Bay and those surrounding the Recherche Archipelago. This bioregion is represented in the Perth Canyon, Geographe Bay, South-west Corner, Bremer and Eastern Recherche Commonwealth Marine Reserves.

¹ www.environment.gov.au/coasts/mbp/publications/general/goals-nrsmpa.html (accessed on 13/01/2013).

² Provincial bioregions are identified in the Integrated Marine and Coastal Regionalisation of Australia version 4.0. There are 41 provincial bioregions around Australia.

- Southwest Transition - is one of the South-west Marine Region's least researched bioregions. It is dominated by the Naturaliste Plateau, a large extension of the continental plate, which adjoins the continental slope through the Naturaliste Trough. Little biological sampling has been conducted here due to its remoteness and rough waters, but based on its characteristics and data from elsewhere in the world, scientists believe that the Plateau hosts rich and diverse biological communities. This bioregion is represented in the Perth Canyon and South-west Corner Commonwealth Marine Reserves.
- Great Australian Bight Shelf Transition - is a vast and shallow bioregion. The invertebrate communities that inhabit the seafloor are among the most diverse in the world. The inshore areas of the bioregion are globally important for the threatened southern right whale and the Australian sea lion. This bioregion is represented in the Eastern Recherche, Twilight, Great Australian Bight, Murat and Western Eyre Commonwealth Marine Reserves.
- Spencer Gulf Shelf Province - straddles Australia's South-west and South-east marine regions, extending east from Ceduna. Seasonal winds and ocean currents interact with seafloor features to produce a number of small seasonal upwellings that are important for biological productivity. The bioregion is noted for its very diverse seafloor communities, productivity hotspots and aggregations of marine life associated with its small seasonal upwellings. New Zealand fur seals, Australian sea lions, dolphins, penguins, Southern right and blue whales and seabirds inhabit or visit the area. This bioregion is represented in the Western Eyre, Western Kangaroo Island and Southern Kangaroo Island Commonwealth Marine Reserves.
- Southern Province – is the largest of Australia's marine provincial bioregions and covers almost half the region, extending offshore from the south-west corner of the Australian mainland across to the eastern boundary of the South-west Marine Region. Submarine canyons and the Diamantina Fracture Zone are key ecological features of the Southern Province. Some of these canyons are important aggregation areas for a range of species, including commercially fished species, deep diving toothed whales, dolphins and New Zealand fur seals. This bioregion is represented in the South-west Corner, Bremer, Eastern Recherche, Great Australian Bight and Western Eyre Commonwealth Marine Reserves.

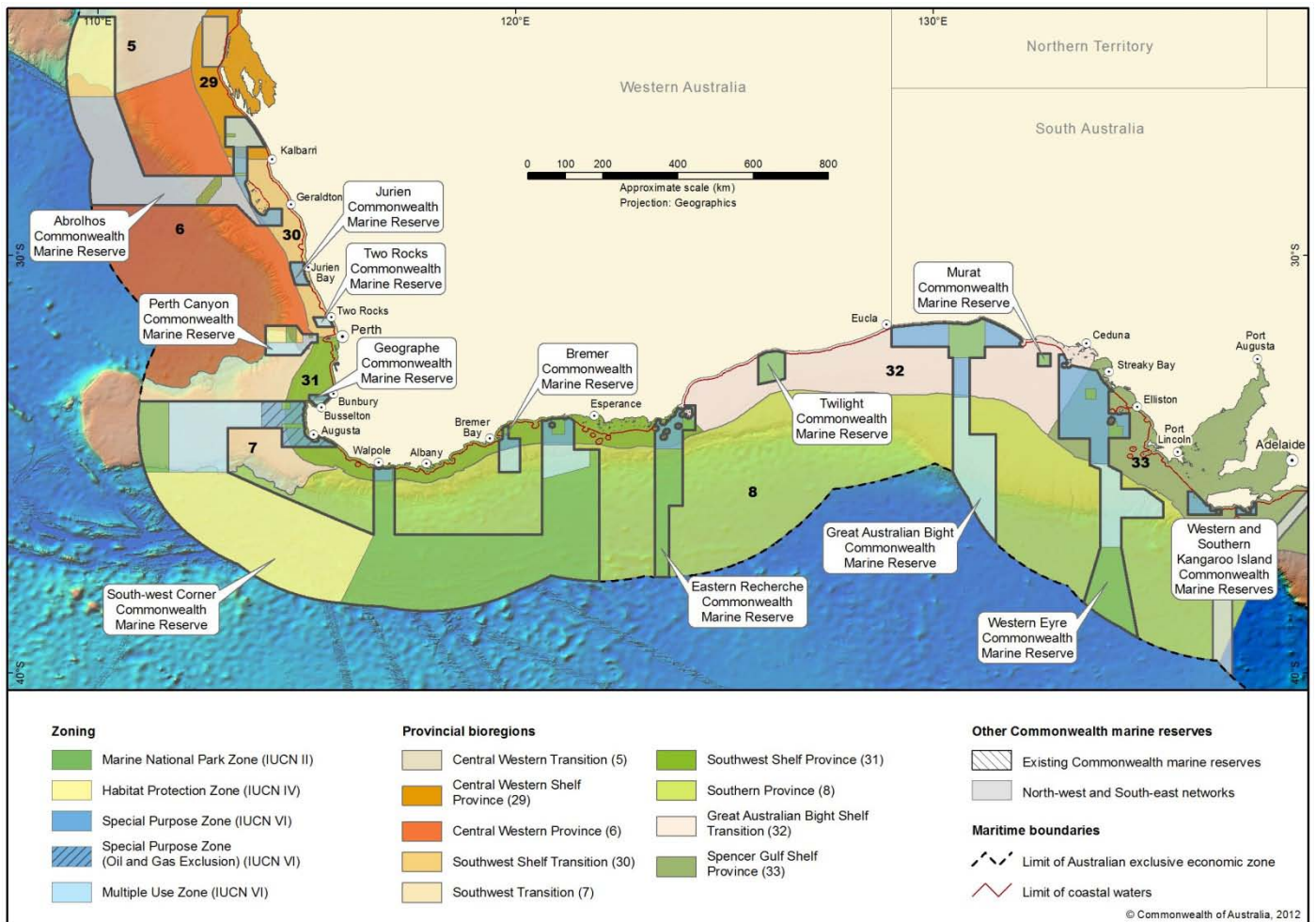


Figure 2.1: Provincial Bioregions represented in the South-west Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network

2.3.2 Depths

The South-west Marine Region ranges from the shallow coastal waters of less than 10 metres depth to a depth of approximately 6400 metres off the shelf. Marine biological communities change with depth, while similar depth ranges in different bioregions support different groups of species. Therefore, including different ocean depths within Commonwealth marine reserves networks will ensure that examples of all types of marine biodiversity will be represented.

The South-west marine reserves network represents examples of 69 depth ranges (or bathomes) within provincial bioregions (Figure 2.2).

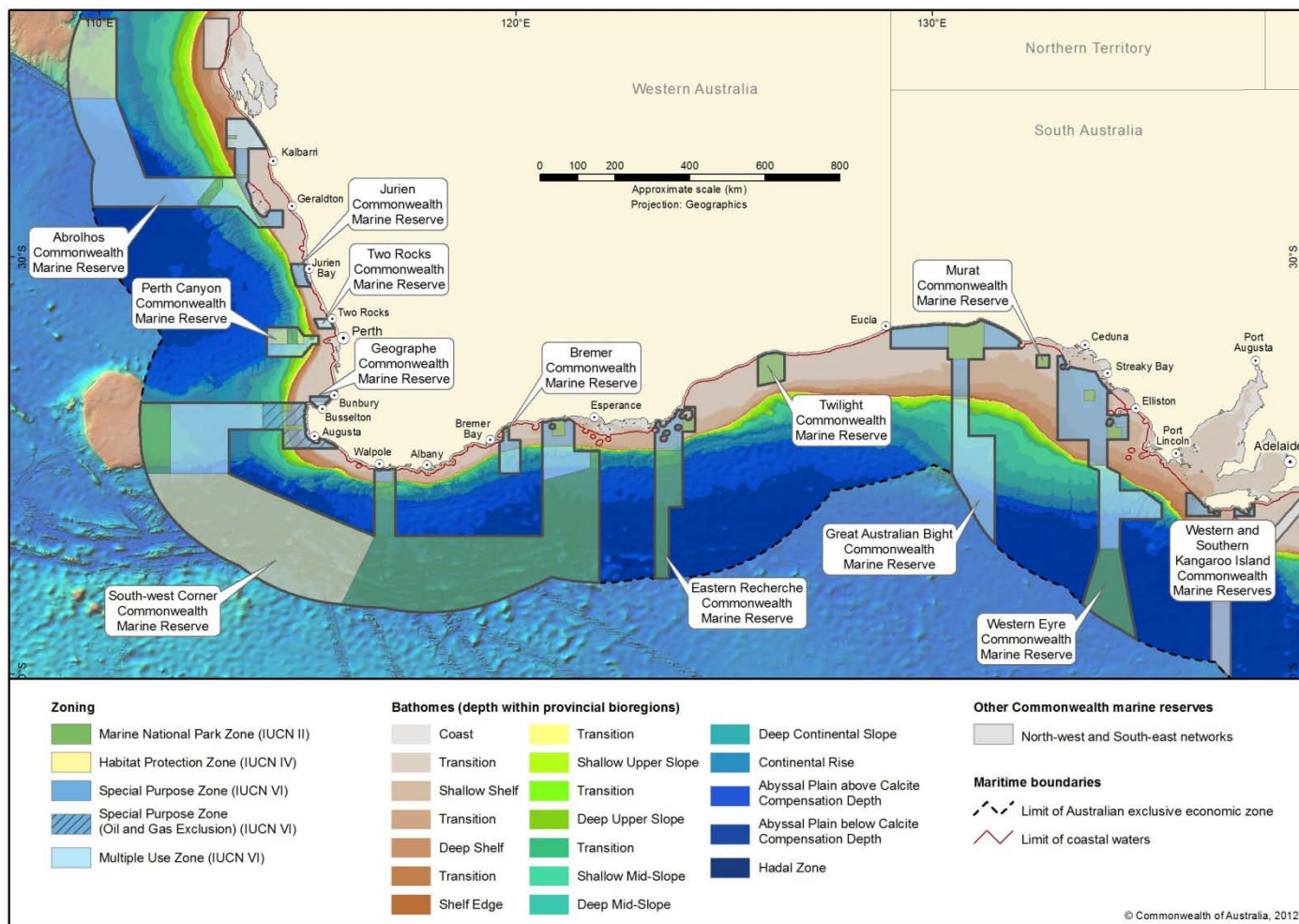


Figure 2.2: Depth ranges represented in the South-west Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network

2.3.3 Large scale biological and ecological features

The marine bioregional planning program identified large scale ecological features that support distinct or important ecological communities at a regional scale. Where these features are considered to be of regional importance for either a region's biodiversity or its ecosystem function and integrity, they are known as key ecological features.

Thirteen key ecological features are represented in the South-west Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network:

- Wallaby Saddle - the Wallaby Saddle is an important seafloor feature, as it is associated with enhanced biological productivity in an area of generally low productivity. The saddle is shallower than adjoining abyss areas to the north and south and is the site of upwellings of deeper, more nutrient-rich waters. Aggregations of sperm whales are thought to occur on the Wallaby Saddle and it is believed that they feed on aggregations of small pelagic fish. These aggregations are a reflection of the relatively high biological productivity of the area. This key ecological feature is represented in the Abrolhos Commonwealth Marine Reserve.
- Commonwealth marine environment surrounding the Houtman Abrolhos Islands - the Houtman Abrolhos Islands and surrounding reefs support a unique mix of temperate and tropical species, resulting from the southward transport of species by the Leeuwin Current over thousands of years. The Houtman Abrolhos Islands are the largest seabird breeding station in the eastern Indian Ocean. They support more than one million pairs of breeding seabirds. This key ecological feature is represented in the Abrolhos Commonwealth Marine Reserve.
- Perth Canyon and adjacent shelf break, and other west coast canyons - the Perth Canyon is the largest known undersea canyon in Australian waters. Deep ocean currents rise to the surface, creating a nutrient-rich cold-water habitat attracting feeding aggregations of deep-diving mammals, such as pygmy blue whales and large predatory fish that feed on aggregations of small fish, krill and squid. This key ecological feature is represented in the Perth Canyon Commonwealth Marine Reserve.
- Commonwealth marine environment within and adjacent to the west coast inshore lagoons - these lagoons are important for benthic productivity, including seaweed (macroalgae) and seagrass communities, and breeding and nursery aggregations for many temperate and tropical marine species. They are important areas for the recruitment of commercially and recreationally important fish species. Extensive schools of migratory fish visit the area annually, including herring, garfish, tailor and Australian salmon. This key ecological feature is represented in the Two Rocks Commonwealth Marine Reserve.
- Commonwealth marine environment within and adjacent to Geographe Bay - Geographe Bay is known for its extensive beds of tropical and temperate seagrass that support a diversity of species, many of them not found anywhere else. The bay provides important nursery habitat for many species. It is also an important migratory area for humpback whales. This key ecological feature is represented in the Geographe Bay Commonwealth Marine Reserve.
- Cape Mentelle upwelling - the Cape Mentelle upwelling draws relatively nutrient-rich water from the base of the Leeuwin Current up the continental slope and onto the inner continental shelf, where it results in phytoplankton blooms at the surface. The phytoplankton blooms provide the basis for an extended food chain characterised by feeding aggregations of small pelagic fish, larger predatory fish, seabirds, dolphins and sharks. This key ecological feature is represented in the South-west Corner Commonwealth Marine Reserve.
- Naturaliste Plateau - the Naturaliste Plateau is Australia's deepest temperate marginal plateau. The combination of its structural complexity, mixed water dynamics and relative isolation indicate that it supports deep-water communities with high species diversity and endemism. This key ecological feature is represented in the South-west Corner Commonwealth Marine Reserve.
- Diamantina Fracture Zone - the Diamantina Fracture Zone is a rugged, deep-water environment of seamounts and numerous closely spaced troughs and ridges. Very little is known about the ecology of this remote, deep-water feature, but marine experts suggest that its size and physical complexity mean that it is likely to support deep-water communities characterised by high species diversity, with many species likely to be found nowhere else. This key ecological feature is represented in the South-west Corner Commonwealth Marine Reserve.

- Albany Canyon group and adjacent shelf break - the Albany Canyon group is thought to be associated with small, periodic subsurface upwelling events, which may drive localised regions of high productivity. The canyons are known to be a feeding area for sperm whale and sites of orange roughy aggregations. Anecdotal evidence also indicates that this area supports fish aggregations that attract large predatory fish and sharks. This key ecological feature is represented in the South-west Corner and Bremer Commonwealth Marine Reserves.
- Commonwealth marine environment surrounding the Recherche Archipelago - the Recherche Archipelago is the most extensive area of reef in the South-west Marine Region. Its reef and seagrass habitat supports a high species diversity of warm temperate species, including 263 known species of fish, 347 known species of molluscs, 300 known species of sponges, and 242 known species of macroalgae. The islands also provide haul-out (resting areas) and breeding sites for Australian sea lions and New Zealand fur seals. This key ecological feature is represented in the South-west Corner and Eastern Recherche Commonwealth Marine Reserves.
- Ancient coastline at 90 -120 m depth - benthic biodiversity and productivity occur where the ancient coastline forms a prominent escarpment, such as in the western Great Australian Bight, where the sea floor is dominated by sponge communities of significant diversity and structural complexity. This key ecological feature is represented in the Great Australian Bight, Western Eyre and the Western Kangaroo Island Commonwealth Marine Reserves.
- Kangaroo Island Pool, canyons and adjacent shelf break, and Eyre Peninsula upwellings - the Kangaroo Island canyons are known for their seasonal upwellings of deep ocean waters that support aggregations of krill, small pelagic fish and squid, which in turn attract marine mammals (e.g. pygmy blue whales, sperm whales, dolphins and New Zealand fur seals), sharks, large predatory fish and seabirds. This key ecological feature is represented in the Western Eyre and the Western and Southern Kangaroo Island Commonwealth Marine Reserves.
- Demersal slope and associated fish communities of the Central Western Province – the western demersal slope provides important habitat for demersal fish communities, with a high level of diversity and endemism. A diverse assemblage of demersal fish species below a depth of 400 m is dominated by relatively small benthic species such as grenadiers, dogfish and cucumber fish. Unlike other slope fish communities in Australia, many of these species display unique physical adaptations to feed on the sea floor (such as a mouth position adapted to bottom feeding), and many do not appear to migrate vertically in their daily feeding habits. This key ecological feature is represented in the Abrolhos and Perth Canyon Commonwealth Marine Reserves.

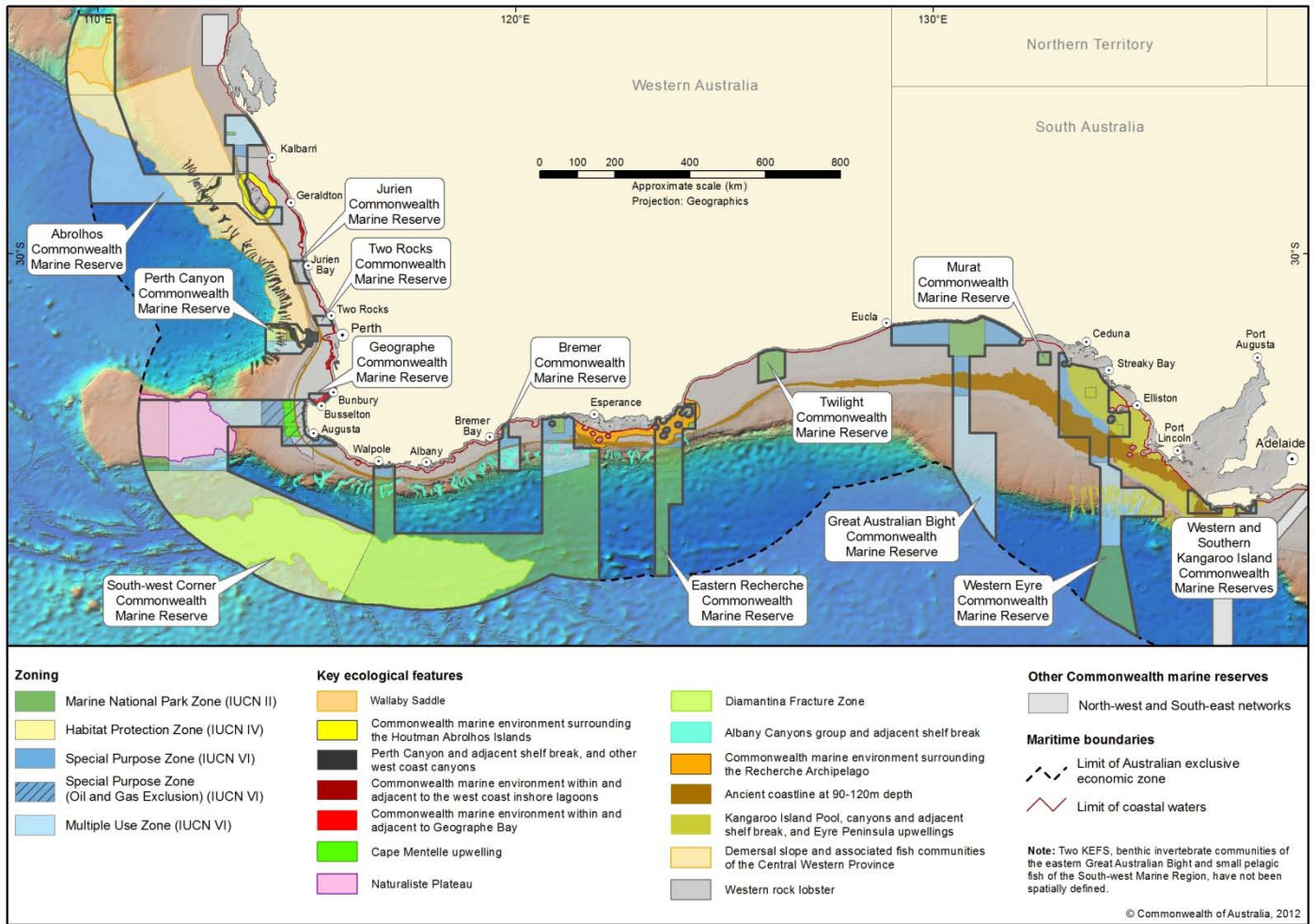


Figure 2.3: Key ecological features represented in the South-west Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network

2.3.4 Sea-floor features

The landscape-scale physical structure of the sea-floor is important in determining where habitats or species occur. Large physical sea-floor structures (tens to hundreds of kilometres in scale) are referred to as geomorphic or sea-floor features and include, for example, sea-floor pinnacles, underwater seamounts, canyons and reefs. There is a lack of detailed and comprehensive information on the distribution of biodiversity mainly due to the vastness, remoteness and inaccessibility of the deep ocean environments. There is strong scientific evidence that different types of sea-floor features provide different habitats and are associated with different marine species and communities. For this reason, sea-floor features were used as one of the surrogates for biodiversity to design marine reserves networks.

The South-west marine reserves network represents sixteen seafloor features (Figure 2.4).

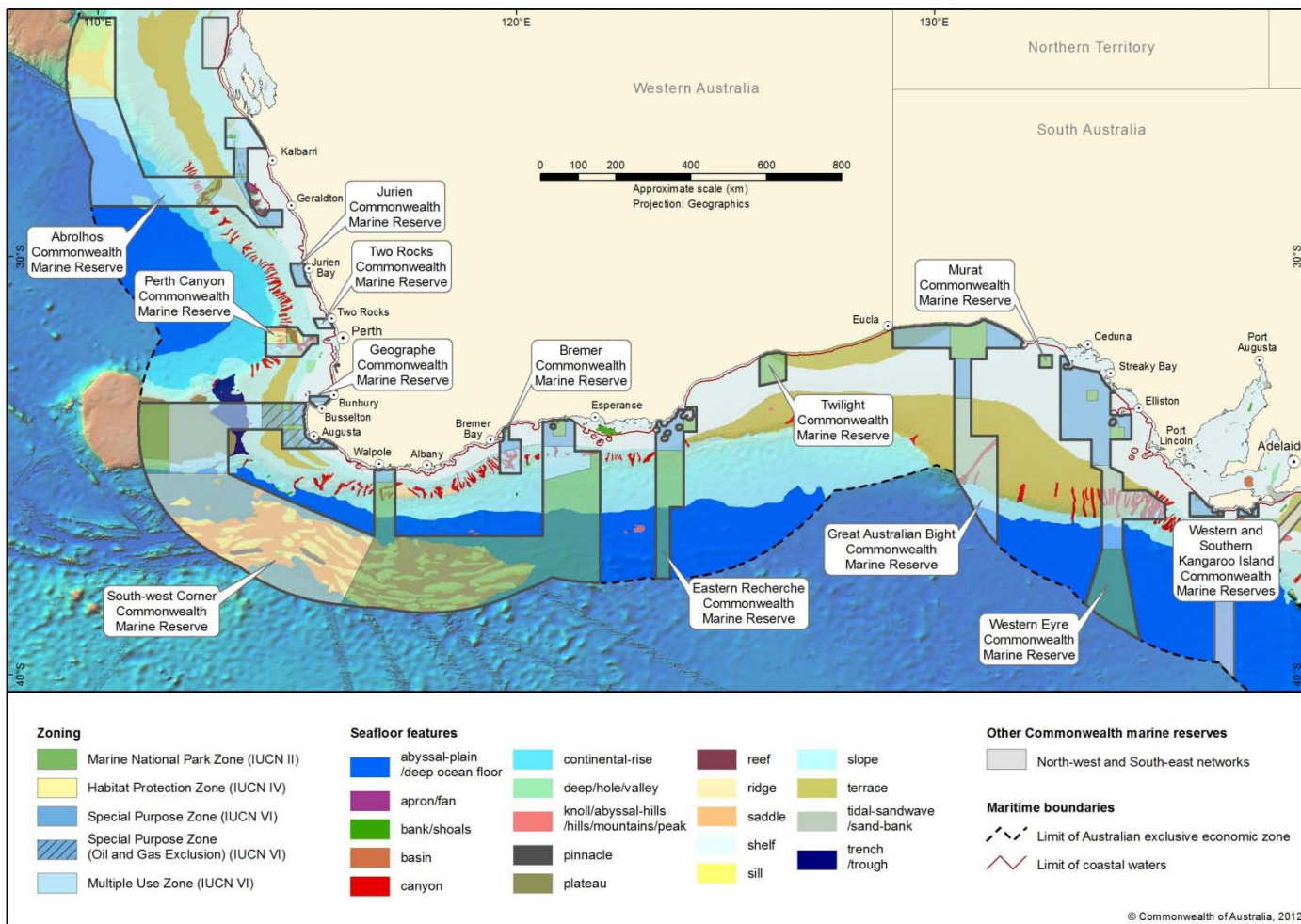


Figure 2.4: Sea-floor features represented in the South-west Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network

2.3.5 Protected species and biologically important areas

The South-west marine reserves network provides protection to a number of species listed as endangered or vulnerable under Commonwealth legislation or international agreements. These include the white shark, Australian sea lion, a number of cetacean species, the sooty tern and other seabirds. The network also contains areas important for species that are listed under:

- the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals 1979 (CMS or Bonn Convention)
- the Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of Japan for the Protection of Migratory Birds in Danger of Extinction and their Environment 1974 (JAMBA)
- the Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the People’s Republic of China for the Protection of Migratory Birds and their Environment 1986 (CAMBA)
- the Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Republic Of Korea on the Protection of Migratory Birds 2007 (ROKAMBA).

Biologically important areas are areas where aggregations of individuals of a protected species display behaviours such as breeding, foraging, resting and migration. Biologically important areas highlight those parts of the region that are particularly important for the protection and conservation of protected species. Information on the distribution and types of behaviours, such as foraging, breeding and migration, has been compiled for cetaceans, pinnipeds, seabirds and sharks. Biologically important areas intersecting the South-west marine reserves network include:

- Seasonal calving habitat for the threatened southern right whale in the Bremer, Eastern Recherche, Twilight, Great Australian Bight and Western and Southern Kangaroo Island Commonwealth marine reserves.
- Foraging habitat for breeding colonies of the threatened Australian sea lion in a number of marine reserves including the Abrolhos, Jurien, Two Rocks, South-west Corner, Bremer, Twilight, Great Australian Bight, Western Eyre and Western and Southern Kangaroo Islands Commonwealth marine reserves.
- Foraging habitat for the broad-ranging threatened white shark, blue whale, Indian yellow-nosed albatross and soft-plumaged petrel, and for several species of migratory seabirds. Biologically important areas for these species are represented in a number of marine reserves including the Jurien, Two Rocks, Geographe Bay, South-west Corner, Twilight, Murat and Western Eyre Commonwealth marine reserves.
- Biologically important areas for several whale species other than the Southern right whale, including resting places for migrating humpback whales, areas where sperm whales and killer whales feed, and a migration route for threatened blue whales. Biologically important areas for these species are represented in a number of reserves including the Abrolhos, Jurien, Two Rocks, South-west Corner, Perth Canyon, and Western Eyre Commonwealth marine reserves.

More information on protected species and biologically important areas can be found in the Marine Bioregional Plan for the South-west Marine Region.

2.3.6 Protected places

Protected places are those places protected under the EPBC Act as matters of national environmental significance—places listed as World Heritage, National Heritage, or wetlands listed under the *Convention on Wetlands of International Importance 1971 (Ramsar Convention)*. Protected places may also include places on the Commonwealth heritage list or shipwrecks listed under the *Historic Shipwrecks Act 1976*. At the time of preparing this management plan, the South-west marine reserves network included one protected place (Table 1). One of the reserves, the Abrolhos marine reserve, is adjacent to the Shark Bay World Heritage Area.

Table 1: Protected places in the South-west marine reserves network

Protected place	Protection measure	Relevant Commonwealth Marine Reserve
SS Cambewarra	Historic shipwreck	Jurien Commonwealth Marine Reserve

2.3.7 Other values

Data on marine biodiversity is relatively scarce when compared to terrestrial environments and the knowledge of the occurrence, distribution and ecology of species within the marine reserves of the South-west network is coarse, with fine scale data and understanding of local conditions and assets limited to a few better studied areas. Many of the biodiversity values of the South-west marine reserves are yet to be identified and understood. Strategy 1 of this Plan sets out actions and desired outcomes to ensure that the knowledge basis necessary to underpin management in the long term improves over the life of the plan.

While biodiversity values underpin much of the design of the South-west marine reserves network, each of its marine reserves is likely to contain a range of other values, including cultural, recreational and historical, that also need to be understood and documented. These intentions are articulated in Strategies 5 and 6 of this Plan.

2.4 Pressures on the conservation values of the South-west Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network

For the purpose of this plan, pressures are defined broadly as human-driven processes, events and activities that may detrimentally affect the values of the South-west marine reserves network. Pressures are characterised by two main types: those that are directly associated with human activities in the region and those that are related to the effects of climate change. Further information on pressures is available in the Marine Bioregional Plan for the South-west Marine Region.

Human pressures on marine ecosystems and biodiversity in the South-west Marine Region are, by global standards, moderate. This is partly due to the relatively low levels of marine resource use and coastal population pressure across the region (exceptions being in proximity to the large urban centres), and partly due to Australia's generally sound management of the marine environment. A number of sources of pressures nevertheless exist in the region, which is next to one of the fastest growing economic regions in Australia:

- extraction of living resources (commercial and recreational fishing, and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing)
- physical habitat modification and changes to hydrological regimes as a result of increasing industrial development in areas adjacent to the region such as increases in shipping activities and development of port infrastructure
- increasing petroleum and mineral exploration and development
- emergence of offshore renewable energy industries.

Pressures related to the effects of climate change and associated large-scale effects on the marine environment are unpredictable and may include shifts in major currents, rising sea levels, ocean acidification, and changes in the variability and extremes of climatic features (e.g. sea temperature, winds, and storm frequency and intensity). There remains a high level of uncertainty about the effects that climate change related pressures will have on the conservation values protected by the South-west Commonwealth marine reserves.

This Management Plan is one of a suite of tools that contribute to the management of pressures on the South-west Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network and surrounding region. It operates alongside other Commonwealth and state programs to manage activities both within and in areas adjacent to the marine reserves network. Other agencies that have an important role in the management of pressures in the region include maritime compliance agencies (e.g. Customs and Border Protection Service, Australian Maritime Safety Authority, National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority), fisheries management agencies at both the state and Commonwealth level (e.g. Australian Fisheries Management Authority) and research organisations (e.g. Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, Geoscience Australia).

This Management Plan establishes a framework for assessing activities and managing pressures on the conservation values of the marine reserves network. This framework includes the use of:

- zoning to reduce pressures across the network and to identify areas where activities can occur with management measures to reduce associated pressures (see Part 3)

- management strategies directed at developing a better understanding of the effects of pressure on the conservation values, avoidance and mitigation of impacts, incident response and compliance of marine reserve users with the provisions of the Management Plan and engaging marine users in collaborative management approaches(see Part 4)
- management prescriptions identifying the activities that require assessment for potential impacts, as part of the permitting or class approvals processes, before they can be undertaken in the marine reserves network (see Part 5).
- determinations, prohibitions and restrictions made under the Regulations to regulate activities (see Part 5).

PART 3

IUCN CATEGORIES AND ZONING OF NETWORK RESERVES

Each of the 14 reserves in the South-west Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network is assigned to an IUCN category by this Management Plan. Each reserve, apart from the Twilight, Murat, and Southern Kangaroo Island Commonwealth Marine Reserves, is also divided into two or more zones by the Plan. Each zone is also assigned to an IUCN category (see sections 3.1–3.2 below).

As noted in Appendix B, the EPBC Act requires a Commonwealth reserve to be assigned to an IUCN category. The EPBC Act also allows a Management Plan to divide a reserve into zones and to assign the zones to an IUCN category (which may differ from the overall category of the reserve). Schedule 8 of the EPBC Regulations prescribes the Australian IUCN reserve management principles applicable to each IUCN category. The principles for each IUCN category and the general administrative management principles are set out in Appendix B.

The categorisation and zoning scheme takes into account the purposes for which the reserves were declared, the objectives of this Plan (see Section 1.2), and the requirements of the EPBC Act and EPBC Regulations, including relevant reserve management principles, and the IUCN category definitions in the IUCN *Guidelines for applying the IUCN Protected Area Management Categories to Marine Protected Areas*. The IUCN categories and associated management principles for each category broadly determine how areas will be managed and which activities covered by the EPBC Act and Regulations can and cannot be conducted in them.

This Plan gives a 'management zone name' to each undivided reserve and each zone within the reserves that are divided into multiple zones. The management zone name reflects the objectives of the Plan and activities that can be carried on in each zone, consistent with the IUCN category and relevant management principles.

This Management Plan broadly applies the IUCN categories and management principles as described below.

Category II—National Park

- IUCN definition—Large natural or near natural areas protecting large-scale ecological processes with characteristic species and ecosystems of the area, which also have environmentally and culturally compatible spiritual, scientific, educational, recreational and visitor opportunities.
- Key management principle—an area that should be protected and managed to conserve its natural condition. The detailed management principles are set out in Appendix B.

Management zone name and management approach:

- *Marine National Park Zone* - Area protected and managed to preserve its natural condition. Intended to provide a high level of protection for the ecosystems, habitats and biodiversity within the area. Activities involving the taking or harvesting of either living or non-living resources will generally be prohibited.

Category IV—Habitat/Species Management Area

- IUCN definition—Areas to protect particular species or habitats where management reflects this priority. Many will need regular, active interventions to meet the needs of particular species or habitats, but this is not a requirement of the category.

- Key management principle—an area managed primarily for conservation, through management intervention if necessary, to maintain habitats or species. The detailed management principles are set out in Appendix B.

Management zone name and management approach:

- *Habitat Protection Zone* – Areas managed to ensure maintenance of the habitat conditions necessary to protect significant species, groups of species, biotic communities or physical features of the environment. Intended to provide a heightened level of protection to ensure the maintenance of habitats, particularly habitats of the seafloor. Recreational fishing, other recreational uses, charter fishing, tourism and aquaculture will be allowed. Some forms of commercial fishing will be allowed, but not those using the following gear types: demersal trawl, demersal gillnet, demersal longline, crab traps and lobster pots. Mining and oil and gas exploration and development involving disturbance of the seabed will be prohibited.

Category VI—Managed Resource Protected Area

- IUCN definition— Areas which conserve ecosystems, together with associated cultural values and traditional natural resource management systems. Generally large, mainly in a natural condition, with a proportion under sustainable natural resource management and where low-level non-industrial natural resources use compatible with nature conservation is seen as one of the main aims of the area.
- Key management principle—Area should be managed mainly for the ecologically sustainable use of natural ecosystems. The detailed management principles are set out in Appendix B.

Management zone names and management approach:

- *Multiple Use Zone*— Areas managed to provide a heightened level of protection for ecosystems, habitats and biodiversity, while also allowing activities that are compatible with the primary objective of biodiversity conservation and the protection and maintenance of natural values in the long term. Recreational fishing, other recreational uses, charter fishing, tourism and aquaculture will be allowed. Mining operations, including oil and gas exploration and development, will be allowed (depending on whether the operations have been authorised under the referral, assessment and approval provisions of the EPBC Act). Some forms of commercial fishing will be allowed, but not those using the following gear types: demersal trawl, demersal gillnet and demersal longline.
- *Special Purpose Zone (oil and gas exclusion)* — Areas managed to provide a heightened level of protection for ecosystems, habitats and biodiversity, while also allowing activities that are compatible with the primary objective of biodiversity conservation and the protection and maintenance of natural values in the long term. Recreational fishing, other recreational uses, charter fishing, tourism and aquaculture will be allowed. Some forms of commercial fishing will be allowed, but not those using demersal trawl gear. Mining and oil and gas exploration and development will be prohibited.
- *Special Purpose Zone* — Areas managed to provide a heightened level of protection for ecosystems, habitats and biodiversity, while also allowing activities that are compatible with the primary objective of biodiversity conservation and the protection and maintenance of natural values in the long term. Recreational fishing, other recreational uses, charter fishing, tourism and aquaculture will be allowed. Mining operations, including oil and gas exploration and development, will be allowed (depending on whether the operations have been authorised under the referral, assessment and approval provisions of the EPBC Act). Some forms of commercial fishing will be allowed, but not those using demersal trawl gear.

Table 3.1 sets out the IUCN categories assigned to the network reserves and the zones within reserves, and the relevant management zone name. Details of each marine reserve are given in Appendix A, including a map showing the location of zones, and a general description and major values of each marine reserve.

Management strategies that give effect to the objectives, zoning, IUCN categories and management principles are set out in Part 4. Prescriptions that apply to different zones are set out in Part 5.

Categories and zones

- 3.1 Each Commonwealth marine reserve in the South-west marine reserves network is assigned to the IUCN category specified in column 2 of Table 3.1, adjacent to the name of the reserve.
- 3.2 Twilight, Murat, and Southern Kangaroo Island Commonwealth Marine Reserves are given the network management zone names specified in a Column of Table 3.1 adjacent to the name of the Reserve.
- 3.3 Western Kangaroo Island, Western Eyre, Great Australian Bight, Eastern Recherche, South-west Corner, Bremer, Geographe, Perth Canyon, Two Rocks, Jurien and Abrolhos Commonwealth Marine Reserves are each divided into the zones as shown in the map of the Reserve in Appendix A, and each zone is assigned to the IUCN category, and given the management zone name, specified in columns of Table 3.1, adjacent to the name of the Reserve.

Table 3.1: IUCN categories and management zone names in the South-west Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network

1. Reserve name	2. IUCN category	3. IUCN categories in each reserve and management zone name		
		IUCN II	IUCN IV	IUCN VI
Southern Kangaroo Island	VI			Special Purpose Zone
Western Kangaroo Island	VI	Marine National Park Zone		Special Purpose Zone
Western Eyre	VI	Marine National Park Zone		Multiple Use Zone
				Special Purpose Zone
Murat	II	Marine National Park Zone		
Great Australian Bight	VI	Marine National Park Zone		Multiple Use Zone
				Special Purpose Zone
Twilight	II	Marine National Park Zone		
Eastern Recherche	II	Marine National Park Zone		Special Purpose Zone
Bremer	VI	Marine National Park Zone		Multiple Use Zone
				Special Purpose Zone
South-west Corner	II	Marine National Park Zone	Habitat Protection Zone	Multiple Use Zone
				Special Purpose Zone (Oil and Gas Exclusion)
				Special Purpose Zone
Geographe	VI	Marine National Park Zone		Multiple Use Zone
				Special Purpose Zone
Perth Canyon	VI	Marine National Park Zone	Habitat Protection Zone	Multiple Use Zone
Two Rocks	VI	Marine National Park Zone		Multiple Use Zone
Jurien	VI	Marine National Park Zone		Special Purpose Zone
Abrolhos	VI	Marine National Park Zone	Habitat Protection Zone	Multiple Use Zone
				Special Purpose Zone

PART 4

MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

The IUCN categories and associated Australian IUCN reserve management principles (see Part 3) guide how the South-west Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network will be managed to achieve the objectives of this Plan (see Section 1.2). The principles also guide the application of provisions in the EPBC Act and Regulations relating to Commonwealth reserves, including whether actions and activities subject to those provisions can be carried on within reserve management zones. Parts 4 and 5 of the Plan set out the management arrangements to achieve the objectives of the Management Plan consistent with the reserve management principles (see Figure 4.1).

Part 4 identifies the management strategies and actions that will be used to achieve the objectives of this Plan, and effectively support the administration of management prescriptions in Part 5. The strategies and actions are consistent with relevant EPBC Act National and Commonwealth Heritage management principles and take account of Australia's obligations under relevant international agreements, including the World Heritage Convention and Ramsar Convention (see Section 2.3.6 – Protected Places).

Part 5 sets out the management prescriptions for specific activities in the network to ensure network management zones are managed consistently with the Australian IUCN reserve management principles. Prescriptions specify whether or not actions and activities subject to the EPBC Act and Regulations are allowed to occur, are allowable under a permit or class approval from the Director, or if they are prohibited in network management zones. Part 5 also sets out the rules for issuing and managing permits and class approvals.

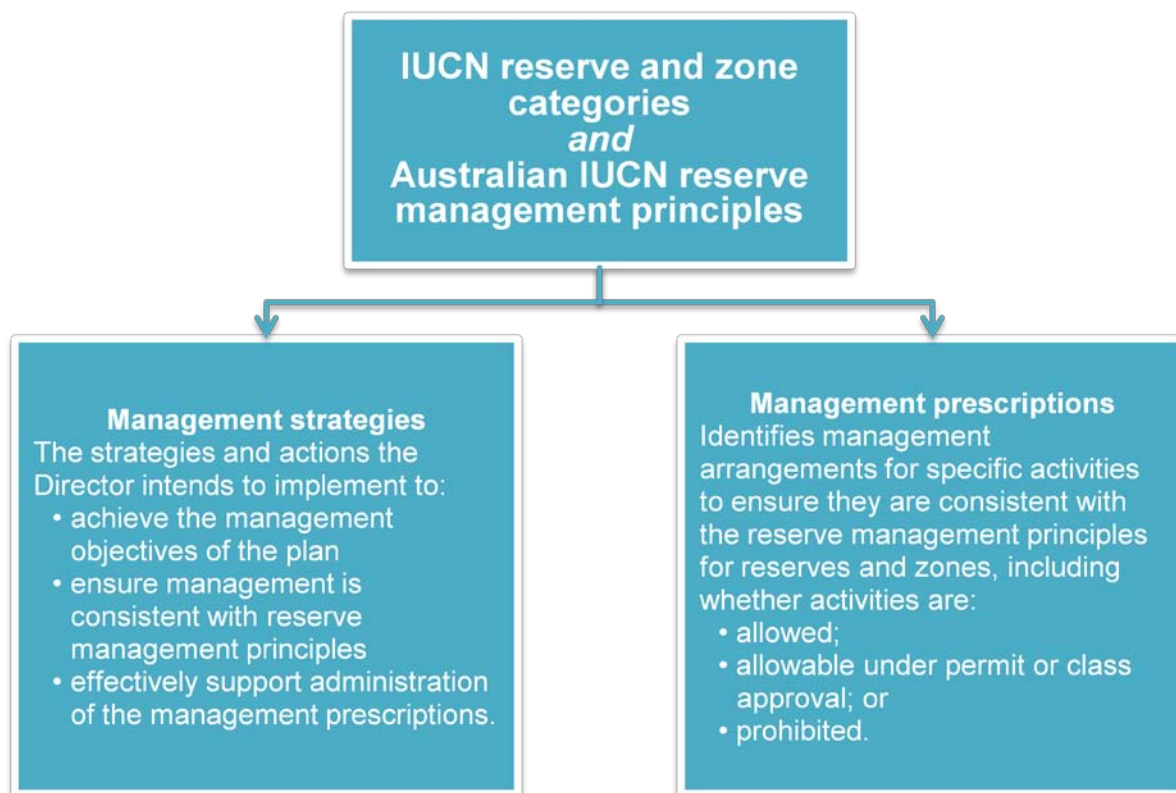


Figure 4.1: Overview of the relationship between the IUCN zone categories, Australian IUCN reserve management principles, management strategies and management prescriptions

The management strategies and their associated actions provide a structured framework for achieving the objectives of this Management Plan. They collectively support protection of the conservation values of the marine reserves network while providing for sustainable use. The seven management strategies for this Management Plan are as follows:

1. Improve knowledge and understanding of the conservation values of the marine reserves network and of the pressures on those values.
2. Minimise impacts of activities through effective assessment of proposals, decision-making and management of reserve-specific issues.
3. Protect the conservation values of the marine reserves network through management of environmental incidents.
4. Facilitate compliance with this Management Plan through education and enforcement.
5. Promote community understanding of, and stakeholder participation in, the management of the marine reserves network.
6. Support involvement of Aboriginal people in management of Commonwealth marine reserves.
7. Evaluate and report on the effectiveness of this Management Plan through monitoring and review.

The management strategies identify how the objectives of this Management Plan will be achieved. Specific guidance on the mechanisms that will be developed to achieve each strategy is provided in the actions. This Management Plan provides for the development of supporting and further detailed policies, strategies and actions over the time of the Plan. These supporting documents will provide for location-specific reserve management and for engagement of users and other stakeholders as needed.

Strategy 1—Improve knowledge and understanding of the conservation values of the marine reserves network and of the pressures on those values

Improving knowledge and understanding of the conservation values of the marine reserves network and the pressures on those values will increase the capacity to meet the objectives of the management plan.

Between 2006 and 2012, the Australian Government undertook a comprehensive consolidation of the scientific basis underpinning environmental decisions relevant to the Commonwealth marine areas, through the Marine Bioregional Planning Program. The South-west Marine Bioregional Plan (2012) identified and described the region's conservation values, the level of concern with respect to local and global pressures and key knowledge gaps in relation to the marine biodiversity and ecosystems of the South-west Marine Region. Much of this information underpins the extent and design of the South-west marine reserves network and provides the foundation for improving, at a finer scale, the knowledge of the ecological communities that inhabit each marine reserve and the way they connect to the surrounding environment.

Climate change and its implications will influence Australia's temperate marine environment in ways that are yet to be understood. One of the benefits of representative systems of marine protected areas, such as the South-west marine reserves network, is the opportunity they offer for understanding and monitoring large-scale systemic shifts in ecosystem structure and functions. Establishing baseline data for marine reserves and setting up strategic scientific monitoring programs that build on past and current research and utilise Australia's growing ocean observation capabilities are a key focus of this management plan.

Research and monitoring activities in the marine environment are expensive; prioritising knowledge gaps, maximising the benefits and uptake of relevant research programs and facilitating partnerships with government agencies, research institutions and marine reserves users, must all be critical elements of the long-term strategy to build the knowledge basis necessary for managing and evaluating Australia's marine reserves estate.

Part 5.10 of this plan sets out the prescriptions for authorising and permitting research and monitoring activities in the network.

Actions

- A1 As part of a national-scale program, develop and implement a South-west Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network Research and Monitoring Strategy that contributes to increased understanding of the values of the reserves and provides for ongoing reporting of their condition.
- A2 Develop a framework for the long term scientific monitoring of changes in key conservation values protected by the Commonwealth marine reserves and on the pressures on those values.
- A3 Adopt standards and protocols for biophysical and ecological data collected within Commonwealth Marine Reserves.
- A4 Develop partnerships with marine reserve users and research institutions to deliver on strategic information needs and to inform research programs and government and industry investment in marine research.

Outcomes

- Understanding and knowledge of those conservation values identified as of priority for management improve over the life of this plan.
- Understanding of the pressures affecting key conservation values, improves over the life of this plan and management actions are adapted to take account of the latest available information.
- Data arising from monitoring and research conducted within the South-west marine reserves and the findings of the research can be easily accessed and shared.
- Research and monitoring needs are met in partnership with relevant research organisations and marine reserves users.

Strategy 2—Minimise impacts of activities through effective assessment of proposals, decision-making and management of reserve-specific issues

The primary purpose of the South-west Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network is to protect and maintain biological diversity, while also allowing for the sustainable use of natural resources in some areas. This is reflected in the objectives of this Plan (see Part 1). As described in Part 2 of this Plan a range of activities are carried out within and around the marine reserves of the South-west network. Ensuring that these do not impact on the values of the reserves while also reducing unnecessary administrative burdens on marine reserve management resources and stakeholders, is a key focus of this Plan.

The Strategies in this Part of the Plan set out how the Director will work to deliver the objectives of the Plan. The prescriptions in Part 5 set out how activities of users of the Network will be managed and provides that actions and activities that are otherwise prohibited in Commonwealth reserves by a provision of the EPBC Act or Regulations are:

- allowed (and can be done without the need for a permit or class approval);
- allowable (and can be done in accordance with a permit or class approval issued by the Director of National Parks); or
- prohibited (and cannot be authorised to be done).

Allowed activities under Part 5 of this Plan are those that are known to be likely to have minimal if any impact on the values of relevant network management zones, including if they are done in accordance with conditions prescribed in Part 5 and other applicable laws, and necessary limitations imposed by the Director in accordance with this Plan under the EPBC Regulations (these activities include recreational fishing and vessel transit).

Allowable activities will be authorised (where appropriate) by a permit or class approval issued by the Director under Section 5.2 of the Plan. Impacts of allowable activities require assessment before being authorised. A permit or class approval will not be issued if an activity is considered likely to have unacceptable impacts (that cannot be addressed through the conditions of a permit or approval). Allowable activities proposed to be undertaken by the Director of National Parks should also be assessed before proceeding.

This Plan provides for activity assessment that avoids duplication in processes in relation to consideration of actions that relate to matters protected by Part 3 of the EPBC Act, to reduce unnecessary administrative burdens on marine reserve management resources and stakeholders. Actions that have, will have or are likely to have a significant impact on the environment in Commonwealth marine areas and other matters of national environmental significance (e.g. endangered species), or another matter protected by Part 3, are subject to the referral and assessment provisions of Chapter 4 of the EPBC Act. This Management Plan provides for certain activities (e.g. mining operations) to be approved if they have been considered and authorised under Chapter 4. The EPBC Act referral and assessment processes will also be used to inform decision-making by the Director of National Parks in relation to approval of other allowable activities.

The impacts of some allowable activities may also be subject to assessment under other legislation and management frameworks. A separate assessment under this Management Plan may not be required if the Director is satisfied that the impacts of an activity have been adequately assessed under other laws and frameworks.

In carrying out an assessment and making a decision required under this Plan, the Director will assess and take into account likely impacts of the activity, alignment with the objectives of this Management Plan and consistency with the Australian IUCN reserve management principles applicable to the relevant network management zone.

Where Part 5 of this Plan provides that the Director may authorise an allowable activity, authorisation will generally be given by a permit applied for by the proponent and issued under Part 17 of the EPBC Regulations (see Section 5.2.2 of this Plan). Where provided for by Part 5, and considered appropriate having regard to the impacts of a type of activity, the Director may issue a class approval for the activity under Section 5.2.7 as an alternative to the need for each person conducting the activity to apply for a permit.

Permits and class approvals (including those that Part 5 provides the Director will issue) will be issued subject to conditions that are considered necessary, including to ensure the activity is conducted in a manner to avoid or

minimise impacts. Permits or approvals may be varied, suspended or cancelled where conditions have not been complied with or it is necessary to protect values or achieve the objectives of this Plan.

The Director may also make prohibitions, restrictions or determinations under the EPBC Regulations and in accordance with relevant prescriptions in Part 5 relating to certain activities where doing so is necessary to protect values or otherwise achieve the objectives of this Plan (see Sections 5.3 (General access and use), 5.5 (Commercial fishing) and 5.7 (Recreational fishing)).

Actions

- A5 Establish efficient and effective processes for assessment, decision-making and authorisation of activities within the South-west Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network.
- A6 When the interests of stakeholders are likely to be affected by a decision under this Management Plan, as far as practicable consult with relevant users in a timely and appropriate way; provide an opportunity to comment on the proposed decision and associated actions; take any comments into account; give reasonable notice before decisions are taken or implemented (except in cases of emergency); and provide reasons for decisions.
- A7 Investigate further use of class approvals where there is a sound case for effectively assessing and efficiently approving users that carry out a class of activities in a uniform way.
- A8 Identify reserve specific issues and develop, implement and evaluate management responses where appropriate.

Outcomes

- Potential impacts of allowable activities on the conservation values of the marine reserves network are identified and avoided or mitigated by appropriate assessment and authorisation processes.
- Authorisation processes are streamlined to improve efficiency and effectiveness, and reduce duplication.

Strategy 3—Protect the conservation values of the marine reserves network through management of environmental incidents

The objectives of the Management Plan provide for the protection and conservation of biodiversity and other natural and cultural values. An important part of the management arrangements is to protect these values from detrimental impacts resulting from unexpected or unforeseen incidents.

Environmental incidents have the potential to impact on the conservation values of the network. For example, incidents such as the introduction of marine pests, oil and chemical spills, foundering vessels, lost cargo and ghost nets can occur with little or no warning. Because of this, it is important to be aware of any environmental incident as soon as possible so that any impact to the conservation values can be minimised. The establishment of systems that encourage users of the marine reserves network to report environmental incidents is required for the effective management of such incidents. Collaboration with government agencies and industry stakeholders that possess the capability and expertise to respond to environmental incidents is essential.

Actions

- A9 Establish systems for timely reporting of and response to environmental incidents.
- A10 Respond to environmental incidents that threaten the values of the marine reserves network.
- A11 Maintain effective liaison and partnerships with relevant Commonwealth and state environmental incident response authorities.

Outcomes

- Impacts associated with environmental incidents are identified and managed appropriately.
- Systems for timely reporting of and response to environmental incidents are effective.

Strategy 4—Facilitate compliance with this Management Plan through education and enforcement

People, businesses and organisations that use the marine reserves network are required to comply with this Management Plan.

A well-developed education and risk-based enforcement program tailored to people and industries that use marine reserves are a critical component for effectively managing marine reserves. As a priority, relevant information about the conservation values of the South-west marine reserves network and the zoning and management prescriptions will be produced to support the needs of marine reserve users. Voluntary compliance with this Management Plan will be promoted by increasing users' understanding of the conservation values of the network and the purpose of the South-west marine reserves network. Compliance measures may need to evolve to ensure that the conservation values are protected and that there are no unnecessary imposts on users of the network.

Effective enforcement is supported through risk-based planning, incorporating targeted monitoring and surveillance (e.g. aerial and vessel based), and the collection of intelligence from other sources. In this regard, strong links with Commonwealth and state enforcement agencies to share information and cooperate in joint enforcement activities are important. For example, the Director has agreements with the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service for the provision of surveillance services in marine reserves and with the Australian Fisheries Management Authority for fishing vessel monitoring.

Wardens are appointed under the EPBC Act to enforce compliance with the EPBC Act and Regulations. All Australian Federal Police and Australian Customs officers are wardens for the purposes of the EPBC Act. Officers of other Commonwealth agencies and of Western Australian and South Australian government agencies may also be appointed as wardens in relation to the South-west marine reserves network.

The EPBC Act sets out civil and criminal penalties for breaches, and the EPBC Regulations set out criminal penalties. Administrative remedies, such as the issuing of infringement notices, may also be available in some circumstances.

Actions

- A12 Implement reliable methods for monitoring compliance with this Management Plan.
- A13 Develop, maintain and disseminate appropriate information to enable users of the marine reserves network to comply with the provisions of this Management Plan.
- A14 Consult with users of the network to identify opportunities to improve compliance measures.
- A15 Implement a risk-based annual compliance Plan.
- A16 Establish a reporting system that supports users and visitors of the marine reserves network to report suspected non-compliant activity.
- A17 Build effective working partnerships and agreements with Commonwealth and state government agencies for the delivery of compliance services.
- A18 Investigate and monitor suspected non-compliant activity and, where appropriate, take enforcement action.
- A19 Support initiatives and programs which promote best practice standards that guide use, and minimise impacts on the marine environment

Outcomes

- Marine reserves network users have a clear understanding of what is required to comply with this Management Plan.
- Marine reserves network users contribute to the management of the network through the reporting of suspected non-compliant activity.
- Activities within the marine reserves network are undertaken in a manner that is consistent with the management arrangements as specified in this Management Plan.

Strategy 5—Promote community understanding of, and stakeholder participation in, the management of the marine reserves network

Commonwealth marine reserves protect and maintain Australia's unique marine biodiversity. They are an important part of the overall management arrangements for ensuring our oceans and the life they support are healthy, resilient and used sustainably. It is important that the Australian community understands the importance of the marine reserves network and why it has been established. Marine reserve users can significantly contribute to management of the marine reserves network through sharing their knowledge and understanding of the marine environment and how people use it. Stakeholder participation is an important element of network management. To facilitate this participation it is intended that consultative structures will be established to engage users in the management of the South-west marine reserves network. The Director will use these consultative structures to address conservation issues and other issues of interest to reserve users and the wider public.

Actions

- A20 Develop and implement a communication and education Plan that increases community understanding of the importance of the marine reserves network and meets reserve-specific needs for communication about the values protected and management arrangements and requirements.
- A21 Maintain effective working relationships with user groups to facilitate the exchange of knowledge, understanding and participation in the management of the marine reserves network.
- A22 Establish consultative structures (e.g. committees) to engage in management of the marine reserves network.

Outcomes

- Stakeholders and the community understand the importance of the marine reserves network, the values it protects and management arrangements.
- Stakeholders effectively participate in the management of the marine reserves network.

Strategy 6 - Support involvement of Indigenous people in management of Commonwealth marine reserves

The Indigenous peoples of the South-west coast have been sustainably using and managing their sea country, including areas now included within Commonwealth Marine reserves, for thousands of years – in some cases since before rising sea levels created these marine environments. They continue to rely on coastal and marine environments and resources for cultural identity, health and wellbeing, and economic activities. The saltwater people of the South-west belong to discrete clan estates and language groups that occupy, or traditionally occupied, discrete areas or country. 'Country' refers to a place of origin – literally, culturally or spiritually and 'sea country' and/or 'saltwater country' are terms that refer to an estate or cultural domain in which no separation between land and sea is made.

The Australian Government recognises and respects the knowledge Indigenous people have in managing Australia's land, fresh water and sea, and in conserving biodiversity. It recognises Indigenous Australians as key partners in managing Australia's environment and cultural heritage.

Native Title is a term that refers to the recognition in Australian law that some Indigenous people continue to hold rights to their lands and waters that come from their traditional laws and customs. The *Native Title Act 1993* provides for the recognition of native title on land and in the sea. Section 8 of the EPBC Act provides that the Act does not affect the operation of the Native Title Act.

Indigenous people can contribute to the management of marine reserves networks through sharing their knowledge and understanding, of the marine environment and through participation the management and sustainable use of the resources of these reserves.

Actions

- A23 Drawing on the significant body of knowledge built as part of sea country planning and similar initiatives across Australia, and in consultation with relevant representative organisations, consolidate and communicate information about cultural values protected in the North-west Commonwealth marine reserves
- A24 Identify opportunities for Indigenous people to engage in the management of sea country in Commonwealth marine reserves, for example through the delivery of critical management services, such as monitoring and surveillance.
- A25 Build effective partnerships with Indigenous communities and organisations that have an interest in the marine reserves network.

Outcomes

- Indigenous people and organisations are partners in the management of sea country within Commonwealth marine reserves.
- Management activities within Commonwealth marine reserves respect and complement existing Indigenous governance arrangements and activities.

Strategy 7—Evaluate and report on the effectiveness of this Management Plan through monitoring and review

The primary focus of this strategy is on evaluating the effectiveness of the management arrangements outlined in this Management Plan in meeting the management objectives for the marine reserves network listed in Section 1.2.

A monitoring, evaluation and reporting program will identify monitoring objectives based on the management objectives and information priorities for the network. The monitoring, evaluation and reporting program will establish arrangements to obtain the information needed to review the effectiveness of the implementation of the management plan before its expiry, while also enabling periodic reporting as required. Evaluations of effectiveness provide an important mechanism to identify refinements to and opportunities for improvement of the management plan and its implementation.

Actions

- A26 Establish a program that measures and monitors progress on actions and outcomes
- A27 Report annually on the South-west Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network in the Director of National Parks annual report.
- A28 Evaluate and report on the implementation of the Management Plan before its expiry. The report will consider:
 - an assessment of the existing measures to protect the South-west Commonwealth marine reserves network
 - progress of management plan strategies and actions towards achieving the stated outcomes
 - options for improving management of the network.

Outcomes

- Management is improved on the basis of new information and knowledge.
- Improved understanding of the conservation values, and the pressures on such values, of the marine reserves network.
- The establishment of a program which provides the foundation for the long-term monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the marine reserves network.
- Effective reporting on reserve management to inform stakeholders and meet statutory requirements.

PART 5

MANAGING USE OF THE SOUTH-WEST COMMONWEALTH MARINE RESERVES NETWORK

This Part of the management plan prescribes how activities that are covered by provisions of the EPBC Act and Regulations relating to Commonwealth reserves will be managed in the South-west marine reserves network. It sets out, through management prescriptions, whether such activities can be undertaken and if so, how they will be managed. This includes the use of permits and class approvals to authorise activities; and determinations, prohibitions and restrictions made under the EPBC Regulations to regulate activities.

Approvals for actions and mining operations under s.359B provide interim authorisation while a management plan is not in operation and cease to have effect when a plan comes into operation. This plan provides for permits or approvals to be issued for these actions and mining operations to continue in appropriate network management zones, and that class approval will be given for commercial fishing and for mining operations in appropriate zones where the operations have been authorised under Chapter 4 of the Act.

In accordance with s.359A of the EPBC Act, this management plan does not prevent Indigenous persons from continuing, in accordance with law, the traditional use of an area in a Commonwealth marine reserve for non-commercial hunting or food-gathering, and for ceremonial and religious purposes. Section 8 of the EPBC Act also provides that the Act does not affect the operation of the *Native Title Act 1993*, which also includes provisions that preserve customary rights to use of land and waters.

5.1 Outline of Part 5

The EPBC Act (ss.354/354A and 355/355A) prohibits certain actions being taken in Commonwealth reserves except in accordance with a Management Plan (see Appendix B). These actions include killing, injuring, taking, trading, keeping or moving members of native species, actions for commercial purposes and mining operations. The EPBC Regulations control, or allow the Director of National Parks to control, a range of activities in Commonwealth reserves such as access, use of vessels, waste disposal, commercial fishing, recreational fishing and research.

An activity that is otherwise prohibited in the South-west marine reserves network by the EPBC Act or Regulations may be carried on if it is done in accordance with either:

- a prescription in Part 5 that allows the activity to be done (allowed activities)
- a permit or class approval issued by the Director of National Parks under a prescription in Part 5 (allowable activities).

Depending on the type of activity, other provisions of the EPBC Act and/or other Acts may also apply to the activity (e.g. fisheries laws and laws relating to oil and gas exploration and production).

Section 5.2 sets out the prescriptions that apply to the issuing and managing of permits and approvals that are required and provided for by sections 5.3–5.12. Those sections set out specific prescriptions for different types of activities. Prescriptions in Section 5.3 (General use and access) apply to all activities in the South-west marine reserves network.

Table 5.1 provides a general guide as to whether activities are allowed, allowable under a permit or class approval, or prohibited in the network management zones within the South-west marine reserves network by sections 5.3–5.12.

Table 5.1: Summary of management arrangements for activities in the South-west Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network

Activity	Marine National Park Zone (IUCN II)	Habitat Protection Zone (IUCN IV)	Multiple Use Zone (IUCN VI)	Special Purpose Zone (Oil and Gas Exclusion) (IUCN VI)	Special Purpose Zone (IUCN VI)
General use - including recreational use (non-fishing) and general transit (See Section 5.3)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
General use - ballast water discharge and exchange (See Section 5.3)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Commercial shipping - including general transit (See Section 5.4)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Commercial fishing (except as indicated below) (See Section 5.5)	x	CA	CA	CA	CA
Demersal trawl	x	x	x	x	x
Demersal gillnet, Demersal longline	x	x	x	CA	CA
Fish traps, Lobster pots, Crab pots/traps, Octopus traps	x	x	CA	CA	CA
Aquaculture (See Section 5.5)	x	x	P ¹	P ¹	P ¹
Commercial tourism - fishing, including charter fishing tours (See Section 5.6)	x	P ¹	P ¹	P ¹	P ¹
Commercial tourism - non-fishing, including nature watching, scuba or snorkel tours and use of aircraft (See Section 5.6)	P ¹	P ¹	P ¹	P ¹	P ¹
Commercial media - including in-water filming and photography (See Section 5.6)	P ¹	P ¹	P ¹	P ¹	P ¹
Recreational use - fishing including spearfishing, organised fishing competitions and clients of charter fishing (See Section 5.7)	x	✓	✓	✓	✓

Activity	Marine National Park Zone (IUCN II)	Habitat Protection Zone (IUCN IV)	Multiple Use Zone (IUCN VI)	Special Purpose Zone (Oil and Gas Exclusion) (IUCN VI)	Special Purpose Zone (IUCN VI)
Mining – authorised under Part 7 or 9 of the EPBC Act (See Section 5.8)	x	x	CA	x	CA
Mining – other than mining authorised under Part 7 or Part 8 of the EPBC Act (See Section 5.8)	x	x	P	x	P
Mining – construction and operation of pipelines (See Section 5.8)	P	P	P/CA	x	P/CA
Structures and works - including moorings, excavation and maintenance (See Section 5.9)	P	P	P	P	P
Structure and works – disposal of dredge spoil (See Section 5.9)	x	x	P	P	P
Research and Monitoring (See Section 5.10)	P ¹	P ¹	P ¹	P ¹	P ¹
National security defence and emergency response (See Section 5.11)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Activities not otherwise specified (See Section 5.12)	P ¹	P ¹	P ¹	P ¹	P ¹

✓ Activity is allowed in accordance with this plan prescriptions (without the need for a permit or class approval).

x Activity is not allowed at all (i.e. totally prohibited).

CA Activity is allowable in accordance with a class approval issued by the Director of National Parks.

P Activity is allowable in accordance with a permit issued by the Director of National Parks.

P/CA Activity is allowable in specified zones in accordance with a permit (if the operation is not authorised under Part 7 or part 9 of the EPBC Act) or a class approval (if the operation is authorised under Part 7 or part 9 of the EPBC Act) issued by the Director of National Parks.

¹ Activity may also be authorised in accordance with a class approval issued by the Director of National Parks.

Note: Only gear types specified in a commercial fishing class approval can be used in the conduct of that activity. Gear types not specified in an approval will be required to undergo assessment of the impacts on the area in which they are proposed to be used before a decision is made on whether to approve their use

5.2 Permits and class approvals for allowable activities

As noted in Section 5.1, this Plan provides for certain activities that are otherwise prohibited in Commonwealth reserves to be carried on in accordance with either a permit or a class approval issued by the Director of National Parks ('allowable activities'). Part 17 of the EPBC Regulations contains provisions for issuing and managing permits, including permit applications, preconditions and content of permits; and varying, suspending and cancelling permits. These provisions are adopted for permits authorised by this Plan. Class approvals, and the rules for their issue and management, are established by this Plan.

Permits are used to authorise the person(s) named in the permit to conduct an activity. Class approvals are used to authorise all persons, or a class of persons, carrying on a type of activity specified in the approval.

Decision-making about permits and approvals will be consistent with the objectives of this Management Plan in Section 1.2, the IUCN categories and zoning prescribed in Part 3, and the actions required for assessment of proposals and decision-making prescribed in Strategy 2 in Part 4 of this Plan.

Prescriptions

5.2.1 This section applies where sections 5.3–5.12 of this Management Plan provide that an activity may be done in accordance with a permit or class approval issued by the Director.

Permits

5.2.2 A permit may be issued for allowable activities where provided for by sections 5.3–5.12 of this Plan, in accordance with Part 17 of the EPBC Regulations, subject to the prescriptions (if any) in the section of this Plan relating to the particular activity.

Permit rules

5.2.3 In assessing a permit application, the Director may ask the applicant for more information if the Director considers there is insufficient information to decide whether to issue the permit.

5.2.4 In assessing a permit application for an activity that has been subject to a referral under Part 7 of the EPBC Act, the Director will consider any referral or assessment documents and related information.

5.2.5 A permit may be suspended or cancelled and permit conditions may be varied or revoked in accordance with Part 17 of the EPBC Regulations.

Class approvals

Mining operations and commercial fishing

5.2.6 The Director will issue class approvals for:

a) commercial fishing operations (subject to prescriptions in Section 5.5 of this Plan);

and

b) mining operations covered by Sections 5.8.4 and 5.8.5 of this Plan (subject to the other prescriptions of Section 5.8).

Other activities

5.2.7 A class approval may be issued for other allowable operations where provided for by Sections 5.3–5.12 of this Plan, if the Director is satisfied that:

- a) the operations are not likely to have an unacceptable impact on the values of the marine reserve; and
- b) the operations will be conducted in a manner consistent with achieving the objectives of this Management Plan.

Approval rules

5.2.8 A class approval may be issued subject to conditions, including (without limitation):

- a) to specify the area in which and the periods during which the approved activity may be carried on
- b) to regulate the use of, prohibit or require the use of, specified gear, equipment or practices
- c) the provision of, or consent for, access to data for compliance and monitoring purposes.

5.2.9 A class approval may be suspended or cancelled, and approval conditions may be varied or revoked if the Director is satisfied that:

- a) the operations to which the approval relates have not been, are not being, or likely will not be, carried on in accordance with the approval or a condition of the approval; or
- b) the operations to which the approval relates are having, or are likely to have, an unacceptable impact on the values of the area to which the approval relates; or
- c) the operations to which the approval relates are likely to cause an unacceptable risk to public health and safety,

and class approval conditions may also be:

- d) revoked if the Director is satisfied that the condition is not necessary and revocation will not be likely to result in the operation to which the approval relates having an unacceptable impact on the values of the area to which the approval relates; or
- e) varied if the Director is satisfied that the condition as varied
 - i. is more appropriate for protection of the values of the area to which the approval relates, or
 - ii. will not be likely to result in the operation to which the approval relates having an unacceptable impact on the values of the area to which the approval relates.

5.2.10 A class approval issued under Section 5.2.6 or 5.2.7 may be varied, suspended or cancelled if the Director is satisfied there are reasonable grounds for believing that if the decision to issue the approval were being considered again the approval would not be issued (for example because of new information, if a relevant matter that the Director took into account in deciding to issue an approval has changed or no longer exists).

5.2.11 A class approval may be revoked at the request of the persons to whom the approval relates, and may be varied to remove a person from the class of approved persons at the request of that person.

5.2.12 A class approval may be varied to remove a person from the class of approved persons if the Director is satisfied the person:

- a) has breached a condition of the approval; or
- b) the person has in the previous 10 years been convicted of, or is subject to proceedings for, an offence under the EPBC Act or Regulations or any other law of the Commonwealth about the protection, conservation or management of native species or ecological communities.

Note: Part VIIC of the *Crimes Act 1914* includes provisions that, in certain circumstances, relieve persons from the requirement to disclose spent convictions and require persons aware of such convictions to disregard them.

5.3 General use of and access to the South-west Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network

Economic activity within the South-west marine reserves network includes international and domestic commercial shipping, commercial fishing and commercial tourism (including charter fishing). Recreational activities include nature watching, boating, diving and fishing.

As noted in Section 5.1 and Appendix B of this Plan, the EPBC Act and Regulations control or enable the Director of National Parks to control a range of activities in Commonwealth reserves. Some provisions apply to particular classes of activities, such as commercial activities, mining operations and research. Other provisions relate to activities generally and include provisions enabling the Director to:

- determine areas where waste may be disposed of (r.12.14A and 12.14B) where this is consistent with any relevant Commonwealth law or international agreements
- prohibit or restrict entry or activities (rr.12.23 and 12.23A)
- determine adventurous activities and areas where adventurous activities may be done (r.12.26)
- make determinations about use of vessels, including to prohibit use, control anchoring and mooring, and set speed limits (r.12.56); and
- make determinations about use of aircraft in and over reserves (r.12.58).

At the time of making this Plan a determination was in effect under r.12.56 of the EPBC Regulations prohibiting the use of vessels from 1 May to 31 October each year in the area of the Marine Mammal Protection Zone of the former Great Australian Bight Marine Park (Commonwealth Waters) that is now part of the Great Australian Bight Commonwealth Marine Reserve. The determination reflected the longstanding prohibition on use of vessels in the area during that period for the protection of southern right whales. This instrument will continue subject to Section 5.3.1 of this Plan.

The prescriptions in this section apply to the operation of the general regulatory provisions that are of particular relevance to the South-west marine reserves network, and apply to all users of the network, including those carrying on activities provided for under other sections of this part of the plan.

Table 5.2 provides a general guide to the prescriptions in this plan applying to all users of the network.

Prescriptions

5.3.1 The Director may make, amend and revoke prohibitions, restrictions and determinations under rr.12.23, 12.23A, 12.26, 12.56 and 12.58 of the EPBC Regulations where it is necessary:

- c) to protect and conserve natural and cultural heritage values
- d) to ensure human safety or visitor amenity; or
- e) where it is otherwise necessary to give effect to this Plan,

and the Director may issue a permit for an activity that would otherwise be prohibited by such an instrument. This section applies despite any other prescriptions in this Plan.

5.3.2 The Director may make a determination under r.12.14B of the EPBC Regulations specifying areas that may be used for the discharge, disposal of, release or leaving of industrial or domestic waste; and may issue permits to do so in areas of the network not subject to such a determination.

5.3.3 Disposal of waste in connection with activities authorised under Section 5.9 of this Plan will be managed in accordance with that Section 5.9.

5.3.4 Ballast water may be discharged or exchanged, subject to compliance with:

- a) the Australian Ballast Water Management Requirements and relevant state ballast water management arrangements
- b) relevant Commonwealth and state legislation or international agreements (if any) relating to ballast water management; and
- c) relevant prohibitions, restrictions and determinations made by the Director under this Plan.

Table 5.2: Summary of management arrangements for general use activities in the South-west Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network

Activity	Marine National Park Zone (IUCN II)	Habitat Protection Zone (IUCN IV)	Multiple Use Zone (IUCN VI)	Special Purpose Zone (Oil and Gas Exclusion) (IUCN VI)	Special Purpose Zone (IUCN VI)
Recreational use – non-fishing (nature watching)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vessel transiting	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ballast water discharge and exchange	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

✓ Activity is allowed in accordance with Plan prescriptions (without the need for a permit or class approval).

Note: Refer to Appendix A for information on zones within specific marine reserves of the South-west marine reserves network.

5.4 Commercial shipping

Maritime transport is vital to Australia’s economy. Vessels transit through the South-west Marine Region on the way to and from Australian ports adjacent to the region, the eastern seaboard and overseas destinations. The major port of call in the region is the Port of Fremantle, with Albany, Bunbury, Esperance and Geraldton important for shipping minerals and agricultural commodities. The Port of Adelaide is the second busiest port in the region, with Port Lincoln, Port Pirie, Thevenard and Whyalla also important South Australian ports. Some of the region’s major shipping routes transect reserves in the South-west marine reserves network, particularly the Perth Canyon, Abrolhos and South-west Corner reserves in the west and the Eastern Recherche and Western Eyre reserves in the east.

Sections 354 and 354A of the EPBC Act require commercial activities, including incidental activities such as transit, to be undertaken in accordance with this Plan.

Australia is a party to a number of international agreements relevant to shipping, in particular the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), which are outlined in more detail in Appendix B. UNCLOS provides a right of innocent passage through the territorial sea for foreign vessels, and right of freedom of navigation through Australia’s exclusive economic zone. MARPOL deals with the preservation of the marine environment through the prevention and minimisation of pollution from ships.

There are also a range of national policies and procedures relevant to shipping such as the National Plan to Combat Pollution of the Sea by Oil and the Australian Ballast Water Management Requirements. Prescriptions dealing with waste disposal and ballast water discharge and exchange are in Section 5.3 (General use and access).

A summary of management arrangements for shipping activities in the South-west marine reserves network is provided in Table 5.3.

Prescription

5.4.1 Commercial shipping may transit through the South-west marine reserves network, subject to compliance with prescriptions in Section 5.3 (General use and access) and relevant prescriptions in sections 5.5–5.12 relating to the activity in which shipping is involved.

Table 5.3: Summary of management arrangements for shipping activities in the South-west Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network

Activity	Marine National Park Zone (IUCN II)	Habitat Protection Zone (IUCN IV)	Multiple Use Zone (IUCN VI)	Special Purpose Zone (Oil and Gas Exclusion) (IUCN VI)	Special Purpose Zone (IUCN VI)
Vessel transiting	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

✓ Activity is allowed in accordance with Plan prescriptions (without the need for a permit or class approval)

Note: Section 5.3.4 applies to prescriptions regarding ballast water discharge and exchange

Note: Refer to Appendix A for information on zones within specific marine reserves of the South-west marine reserves network.

5.5 Commercial fishing and aquaculture

Commercial fishing is an important industry in many coastal economies in the South-west Marine Region. Associated activities, such as fish processing, trade and marketing, ship repair yards, marinas and dock facilities, transportation, boat construction, and the supply of marine equipment such as nets and rigging, are important to the region's employment and economic activity. Offshore aquaculture is an expanding activity in the South-west region.

Commonwealth, state (Western Australian and South Australian) and jointly managed open ocean fisheries operate within the South-west marine reserves network. They use a range of fishing methods and gear types to target a wide variety of fish species. Commercial fishing is generally managed by the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) for Commonwealth fisheries, and relevant state fisheries management agencies for state-managed fisheries. Some fisheries are jointly managed by AFMA and the Western Australian fisheries management agency.

Under ss.354 and 354A of the EPBC Act, commercial fishing operations and aquaculture (being actions for commercial purposes that involve the taking, killing, injuring, moving or keeping of native species) are prohibited in the South-west marine reserves network unless done in accordance with this Management Plan. Regulation 12.34 of the EPBC Regulations, which operates subject to this Plan, provides for the Director of National Parks to make determinations about the manner in which commercial fishing operations may be conducted.

Commercial fishing operations and aquaculture in the network are also subject to regulation under the *Fisheries Management Act 1991* or state laws (under arrangements made under Part V of the Fisheries Management Act). These laws apply to the extent that they can operate consistently with the EPBC Act and Regulations and this Management Plan.

The prescriptions in this section provide for commercial fishing and aquaculture in the network consistent with the objectives of the Plan (Section 1.2) and the IUCN categorisation and zoning of the network reserves (Section 3).

Class approval for commercial fishing issued under Section 5.2 will specify methods and gear types that may be used. Other methods and gear types will need to be assessed before approval may be given.

A summary of management arrangements for commercial fishing activities in the South-west marine reserves network is provided in Table 5.4.

Prescriptions

Commercial fishing

5.5.1 Unless otherwise authorised in accordance with this Plan, commercial fishing operations may be carried on in the South-west marine reserves network in accordance with and subject to:

- a) a class approval issued under Section 5.2
- b) the following prescriptions in this section
- c) the prescriptions in Section 5.3 (General use and access)
- d) the prescriptions in Section 5.4 (Commercial shipping); and
- e) any determinations made under r.12.34 of the EPBC Regulations.

5.5.2 Commercial fishing operations may be carried on in the following network management zones:

- a) Habitat Protection zones (IUCN IV)
- b) Multiple Use zones (IUCN VI)
- c) Special Purpose zones (IUCN VI); and
- d) Special Purpose zones (Oil and Gas Exclusion) (IUCN VI).

Note: Refer to the maps in Appendix A for the location of zones within the reserves network.

5.5.3 Operations must be carried on in accordance with a commercial fishing concession issued under Commonwealth or state fisheries laws to the extent those laws are capable of operating concurrently with this Plan.

5.5.4 The following fishing methods must not be used:

- a) demersal trawl.

5.5.5 The following fishing methods must not be used in a Multiple Use Zone (IUCN VI):

- a) demersal gillnet;
- b) demersal longline;

5.5.6 The following fishing methods must not be used in a Habitat Protection Zone (IUCN IV):

- a) demersal gillnet;
- b) demersal longline;
- c) fish traps;
- d) lobster pots;
- e) octopus traps;
- f) crab pots.

- 5.5.7 Fishing methods and gear types not specified in a class approval, or conditions of a class approval, issued under this Plan must not be used.
- 5.5.8 Fishing gear must be kept stowed and secured at all times during transit through network management zones in which commercial fishing operations are not authorised.
- 5.5.9 Fishing gear that is:
- a) used in operations covered by Section 5.5.6;
 - b) specified in Sections 5.5.7 and 8;
 - c) not specified in a class approval as gear that may be used, or
 - d) prohibited by a determination under r.12.34 of the EPBC Regulations must be kept stowed and secured at all times during transit through network management zones in which that gear is not allowed.
- 5.5.10 The Director may make determinations under r.12.34 of the EPBC Regulations relating to the conduct of commercial fishing operations.

Aquaculture

- 5.5.11 Aquaculture operations may be carried on in the South-west marine reserves network in accordance with and subject to:
- a) a permit issued under Section 5.2
 - b) the following prescriptions in this section
 - c) the prescriptions in Section 5.3 (General use and access)
 - d) the prescriptions in Section 5.4 (Commercial shipping); and
- 5.5.12 Aquaculture operations may be carried on in the following network management zones:
- a) Multiple Use zones (IUCN VI)
 - b) Special Purpose zones (IUCN VI); and
 - c) Special Purpose Zone (Oil and Gas Exclusion) (IUCN VI).

Note: Refer to the maps in Appendix A for the location of zones within the reserves network.

- 5.5.13 Operations must be carried on in accordance with applicable Commonwealth or state laws relating to aquaculture to the extent those laws are capable of operating concurrently with this Plan.

Table 5.4: Summary of management arrangements for commercial fishing activities in the South-west Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network

Activity	Marine National Park Zone (IUCN II)	Habitat Protection Zone (IUCN IV)	Multiple Use Zone (IUCN VI)	Special Purpose Zone (Oil and Gas Exclusion) (IUCN VI)	Special Purpose Zone (IUCN VI)
Aquaculture	x	x	P	P	P
Commercial fishing (except as indicated below)	x	CA	CA	CA	CA
Demersal trawl	x	x	x	x	x
Demersal gillnet Demersal longline	x	x	x	CA	CA
Crab pots, lobster pots and octopus traps	x	x	CA	CA	CA
Vessel transiting	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

✓ Activity is allowed in accordance with Plan prescriptions (without the need for a permit or class approval).

x Activity is not allowed at all (i.e. totally prohibited).

CA Activity is allowable in accordance with a class approval issued by the Director of National Parks.

P Activity is allowable in accordance with a permit issued by the Director of National Parks.

Note: Gear types not specified in a class approval as gear that may be used will require assessment before use may be approved.

Note: Refer to Appendix A for information on zones within specific marine reserves of the South-west marine reserves network.

5.6 Commercial tourism (including charter fishing tours) and commercial media

Marine and coastal tourism is an important industry in the South-west region, with commercial tour operations in the South-west marine reserves network including offshore charter fishing and yachting, charter boat hire, nature and whale watching, charter flights and scuba diving tours. Incidents and events that take place in the region occasionally will be of interest to the commercial media.

Under ss.354 and 354A of the EPBC Act, commercial activities, including commercial tours and commercial media operations, are prohibited in the South-west marine reserves network unless done in accordance with this Management Plan. Under r.12.36 of the EPBC Regulations, commercial tourism flights over the network (up to 3000 metres above sea level) are similarly prohibited. Requirements for interacting with cetaceans and whale watching in the Australian Whale Sanctuary (the marine reserves network is part of the sanctuary) are set out in Part 8 of the EPBC Regulations.

The prescriptions in this section provide for sea-based commercial tourism to be conducted in most network management zones under either a permit or class approval from the Director of National Parks. Aviation tourism is allowed over the South-west marine reserves network subject to the prescriptions of this section. A permit or class approval may be issued for commercial media operations (including filming, video or audio recording and photography) in all zones.

A summary of management arrangements for commercial tourism and media activities is provided in Table 5.5.

Prescriptions

- 5.6.1 Commercial tourism and media operations may be carried on in the South-west marine reserves network in accordance with and subject to:
- a) a permit or class approval issued under Section 5.2
 - b) the other prescriptions in this section
 - c) the prescriptions in Section 5.3 (General use and access);
 - d) the prescriptions in Section 5.4 (Commercial shipping); and
 - e) in relation to charter fishing tours, the prescriptions in Section 5.7 (Recreational fishing).
- 5.6.2 Commercial media operations for the purposes of reporting news and events of the day may be carried on without a permit or class approval.
- 5.6.3 Charter fishing tours may be carried on in the following network management zones:
- a) Habitat Protection zones (IUCN IV);
 - b) Multiple Use zones (IUCN VI);
 - c) Special Purpose zones (IUCN VI); and
 - d) Special Purpose zones (Oil and Gas Exclusion) (IUCN VI).
- 5.6.4 Fishing gear on charter fishing tour vessels must be kept stowed and secured at all times during transit through network management zones in which charter fishing tour operations are not authorised.
- 5.6.5 Commercial aviation tours may be carried on in the airspace up to 3000 metres above sea level over the South-west marine reserves network, and tour operators may land aircraft in network reserves, in accordance with a permit issued under Section 5.2 and relevant provisions of Part 8 of the EPBC Regulations.

The EPBC Act and Regulations do not apply to commercial tour flights in airspace over 3000 metres above sea level.

Table 5.5: Summary of management arrangements for commercial tourism (including charter fishing) and commercial media activities in the South-west Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network

Activity	Marine National Park Zone (IUCN II)	Habitat Protection Zone (IUCN IV)	Multiple Use Zone (IUCN VI)	Special Purpose Zone (Oil and Gas Exclusion) (IUCN VI)	Special Purpose Zone (IUCN VI)
Commercial tourism – fishing, including charter fishing tours	✘	P	P	P	P
Commercial tourism – non-fishing, including nature watching, scuba and snorkel tours	P	P	P	P	P
Commercial aviation tours	P	P	P	P	P
Commercial media – including in-water filming and photography	P	P	P	P	P
Commercial media – reporting news and events of the day	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vessel transiting	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

✓ Activity is allowed in accordance with Plan prescriptions (without the need for a permit or class approval).

✘ Activity is not allowed at all (i.e. totally prohibited).

P Activity is allowable in accordance with a permit issued by the Director of National Parks. Commercial tourism and media activities may also be authorised under a class approval issued under Section 5.2.7.

Note: Refer to Appendix A for information on zones within specific marine reserves of the South-west marine reserves network.

5.7 Recreational fishing (including clients of charter fishing tours and organised fishing competitions)

Recreational (i.e. non-commercial) fishing is a popular pastime in the South-west Marine Region. Major areas of activity include waters off the Eyre Peninsula and Kangaroo Island and off Perth and the Capes region. Most recreational fishing occurs in state internal and coastal waters (i.e. within 3 nautical miles of the shore). Increasingly, recreational fishing is taking place in Commonwealth waters, bringing the activity within areas of the South-west marine reserves network.

Recreational fishing includes individual/group fishing, clients of charter fishing tours, organised fishing competitions, and consists of all forms of recreational take of fish and other marine life, including line fishing, netting, trapping, spear fishing and hand collecting.

Under ss.354 and 354A of the EPBC Act, recreational fishing (i.e. taking native species of fish for non-commercial purposes) is prohibited in the South-west marine reserves network unless done in accordance with this Management Plan. Regulation 12.35 of the EPBC Regulations, which operate subject to this Plan, provides for the Director of National Parks to make determinations about the manner in which recreational fishing operations may be done (r.12.35(3)) and prohibits certain fishing equipment and practices (rr.12.35 (4) and (5)).

The recreational fishing laws of Western Australia or South Australia also apply to recreational fishing in Commonwealth waters and in the reserves. They apply to the extent they can operate consistently with the EPBC Act and Regulations and this Management Plan. Special rules may apply to recreational fishing done as part of licenced charter fishing tours.

At the time of making this Plan a determination under r.12.56 prohibited the use of vessels in Great Australian Bight Commonwealth Marine Reserve from 1 May to 31 October each year to ensure minimal disturbance of southern right whales during their annual migration. See Section 5.3 in relation to this determination.

The prescriptions in this section provide for recreational fishing in most network management zones, without the need for a permit or approval from the Director, consistent with the objectives of the Plan (Section 1.2) and the IUCN categorisation and zoning of the network reserves (Section 3). Fishing will be subject to relevant WA or SA laws and any determinations under r.12.35 (3) of the EPBC Regulations. The limitations in regulations 12.35 (4) and (5) of the Regulations will not apply (as they are not necessary or appropriate to recreational fishing in the network) except that the use of equipment that allows a person to breathe under the surface of the water by means of compressed air must not be used for the purpose of recreational fishing.

A summary of management arrangements for recreational fishing activities in the South-west marine reserves network is provided in Table 5.6.

Prescriptions

5.7.1 Recreational fishing (taking fish for non-commercial purposes) may be carried on in the South-west marine reserves network in accordance with and subject to:

- a) the other prescriptions in this section
- b) the prescriptions in Section 5.3 (General use and access)
- c) any determinations made under r. 12.35(3) of the EPBC Regulations.

5.7.2 Recreational fishing may be carried on in the following network management zones:

- a) Habitat Protection zones (IUCN IV)
- b) Multiple Use zones (IUCN VI).
- c) Special Purpose zones (IUCN VI); and
- d) Special Purpose zone (Oil and Gas Exclusion) (IUCN VI).

5.7.3 Recreational fishing must be carried on in accordance with relevant state laws applying to the area of the network in which the activity is being done (to the extent those laws are capable of operating concurrently with this Plan).

5.7.4 The Director may make determinations under r.12.35 (3) of the EPBC Regulations relating to the conduct of recreational fishing.

5.7.5 Regulations 12.35 (4) and (5) of the EPBC Regulations do not apply to recreational fishing carried on in accordance with this section.

5.7.6 A person may possess and use a hand spear or spear gun for the purposes of recreational fishing in accordance with this section.

5.7.7 Notwithstanding Section 5.7.5, equipment that allows a person to breathe under the surface of the water by means of compressed air must not be used for the purposes of recreational fishing.

5.7.8 Fishing gear must be kept stowed and secured at all times during transit through network management zones in which recreational fishing is not allowed.

Table 5.6: Summary of management arrangements for recreational fishing activities in the South-west Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network

Activity	Marine National Park Zone (IUCN II)	Habitat Protection Zone (IUCN IV)	Multiple Use Zone (IUCN VI)	Special Purpose Zone (Oil and Gas Exclusion) (IUCN VI)	Special Purpose Zone (IUCN VI)
Recreational use – fishing ^a (including spearfishing); organised fishing competitions	✘	✓	✓	✓	✓
Clients of charter fishing	✘	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vessel transiting	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

✓ Activity is allowed in accordance with Plan prescriptions (permit or class approval not required).

✘ Activity is not allowed at all (i.e. totally prohibited).

a Recreational fishing is managed by the states. Western Australian and South Australian laws apply unless they are inconsistent with this Management Plan.

Note: Refer to Appendix A for information on zones within specific marine reserves of the South-west marine reserves network.

5.8 Mining operations (including exploration)

Four prospective sedimentary basins overlap with the South-west marine reserves; the Perth, Mentelle, Bremer and Bight. Oil and gas exploration has been carried out in the region, however, to date the only production involves the extraction of oil from the Cliff Head oil field located 10km offshore from Dongara, which has been in production since 2006.

Mining operations are prohibited in the South-west marine reserves network by the EPBC Act (ss.355 and 355A) unless done in accordance with this Management Plan. Mining operations include all operations and activities connected with, or incidental to, the mining or recovery of minerals or the production of material from minerals (s.355(2)). 'Mineral' is defined as a naturally occurring substance or mixture of substances (s.355(3)). Mining operations do not include capture and storage of greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide. Under s.359 of the Act, ss.355 and 355A do not apply to usage rights to conduct mining operations that were held immediately before the Proclamation of the reserves.

The prescriptions in this section provide for mining operations in the network consistent with the objectives of the Plan (Section 1.2) and the IUCN categorisation and zoning of the network reserves (Section 3). They allow for the possible authorisation of the transport of minerals by pipeline through zones where mining is not allowed where doing so is critical for the effective conduct of mining operations in zones where this activity is allowed. The prescriptions in this section and Section 5.2 also remove duplication of processes where mining operations have been authorised under Chapter 4 of the EPBC Act.

Mining operations that may be controlled actions under Part 3 of the Act will be subject to consideration and assessment under Chapter 4 and will not be allowed to proceed if the operations are likely to have unacceptable impacts. Decision-making under Chapter 4 of the Act is well established and takes account of the impacts of individual projects on marine reserves. Mining operations are also subject to assessment and approval processes under either the *Offshore Petroleum or Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006* (OPGGS Act) or the *Offshore Minerals Act 1994*. Additional

assessment by the Director of National Parks is not required because these mining operations will be assessed under Chapter 4 of the EPBC Act and these assessments will take account of impacts on marine reserves values.

Transit through the network for the purposes of mining operations conducted elsewhere is covered by Section 5.4 of this Plan.

Prescriptions

5.8.1 Unless otherwise authorised in accordance with this Plan, mining operations may be carried on in the South-west marine reserves network in accordance with and subject to:

- a) a permit or class approval issued under Section 5.2
- b) the other prescriptions in this section
- c) the prescriptions in Section 5.3 (General use and access); and
- d) the prescriptions in Section 5.4 (Commercial shipping).

5.8.2 Mining operations

- a) may be carried on in:
 - i. Multiple Use zones (IUCN VI); and
 - ii. Special Purpose zones (IUCN VI)

in accordance with sections 5.8.4 to 5.8.6 and

- b) that are the construction and operation of pipelines for the transport of minerals may be carried on in:
 - i. Marine National Park zones (IUCN II), and
 - ii. Habitat Protections zones (IUCN IV),

in accordance with Section 5.8.7.

See Table 5.7 and Appendix A for the location of zones within marine reserves.

5.8.3 Mining operations must be carried on in accordance with an authorisation (however described) under the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006* or the *Offshore Minerals Act 1994* (to the extent those laws are capable of operating concurrently with this Plan).

5.8.4 Mining operations in Multiple Use and Special Purpose zones that have been approved under Part 9 of the EPBC Act may be carried on in accordance with conditions of that approval and a class approval issued under Section 5.2.6.

5.8.5 Mining operations in Multiple Use and Special Purpose zones that are the subject of a decision under Part 7 of the EPBC Act that the operations are not a controlled action if taken in particular manner may be carried on in that manner and in accordance with the conditions of a class approval issued under Section 5.2.6.

5.8.6 Mining operations in Multiple Use and Special Purpose zones not authorised by a class approval referred to in sections 5.8.4 or 5.8.5 may be carried on in accordance with a permit issued under Section 5.2.2., or a class approval issued under Section 5.2.7.

- 5.8.7 The Director may issue a permit for the construction and operation of pipelines for the transport of minerals through Marine National Park zones (IUCN II) and Habitat Protections zones (IUCN IV) if the Director is satisfied that:
- the operations are necessarily critical and incidental to the mining or recovery of minerals being conducted elsewhere;
 - it is not practicable for the operations to be conducted outside the zone;
 - the operations are not likely to have an unacceptable impact on the values of the zone or the reserve, and
 - the operations will be conducted in a manner not inconsistent with achieving the objectives of this management plan.

Table 5.7: Zoning arrangements for mining activities in the South-west Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network

Activity	Marine National Park Zone (IUCN II)	Habitat Protection Zone (IUCN IV)	Multiple Use Zone (IUCN VI)	Special Purpose Zone (Oil and Gas Exclusion) (IUCN VI)	Special Purpose Zone (IUCN VI)
Mining – authorised under Part 7 or 9 of the EPBC Act	x	x	CA	x	CA
Mining – other than mining authorised under Part 7 or Part 8 of the EPBC Act	x	x	P	x	P
Mining – construction and operation of pipelines	P	P	P/CA	x	P/CA
Vessel transiting	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

- ✓ Activity is allowed in accordance with Plan prescriptions (permit or class approval not required).
 - x Activity is not allowed at all (i.e. totally prohibited).
 - CA Activity is allowable in specified zones in accordance with a class approval issued by the Director of National Parks.
 - P Activity is allowable in accordance with a permit issued by the Director of National Parks.
 - P/CA Activity is allowable in specified zones in accordance with a permit (if the operation is not authorised under Part 7 or part 9 of the EPBC Act) or a class approval (if the operation is authorised under Part 7 or part 9 of the EPBC Act) issued by the Director of National Parks.
- Note: Refer to Appendix A for information on zones within specific marine reserves of the South-west marine reserves network.

5.9 Structures and works

The installation of structures and carrying on of other works including excavations may be necessary to support commercial, recreational and public good activities in the South-west marine reserves network. Examples of such installations include moorings to minimise anchoring damage to the seabed habitats, maritime navigation aids, and weather or ocean monitoring stations.

Carrying on an excavation, erecting a structure or carrying out works, and associated commercial activities, is prohibited in the South-west marine reserves network under ss.354 and 354A of the EPBC Act unless done in accordance with this Management Plan. These actions may include, for example, dredging, construction of critical infrastructure (eg. for telecommunications and navigation aids) and the disposal of dredge spoil associated with regional development.

Actions of this type related to mining operations are covered by ss.355 and 355A of the Act and will be managed in accordance with Section 5.8 of this Plan.

The prescriptions in this section allow for necessary actions of this type, consistent with the Plan and not covered by sections 5.3 to 5.8, to be carried out in the network.

A summary of management arrangements for these operations in the South-west marine reserves network is provided in Table 5.8.

Prescriptions

- 5.9.1 The Director may carry out an excavation, erect a structure or carry out works in the South-west marine reserves network where the action is consistent with the objectives of the Plan (Section 1.2) and the IUCN categorisation and zoning of the network reserves (Section 3).
- 5.9.2 Unless otherwise authorised in accordance with this Plan, a person other than the Director may carry out an excavation, erect a structure or carry out works in the South-west marine reserves network in accordance with and subject to:
- a) a permit issued under Section 5.2
 - b) the other prescriptions in this section; and
 - c) the prescriptions in Section 5.3 (General use and access).
- 5.9.3 A permit may only be issued for excavations, structures or works in Marine National Park zones (IUCN II) and Habitat Protection zones (IUCN IV) if the Director is satisfied the action is necessary for:
- a) maritime or visitor safety, including aiding navigation
 - b) maintaining the natural values of the South-west marine reserves network (e.g. a mooring may prevent anchor damage); or
 - c) scientific monitoring purposes (e.g. marine weather station) or
 - d) critical infrastructure in the national interest (e.g. telecommunications cables), and
 - i. it is not practicable for the action to be conducted outside the zone,
 - ii. the action is not likely to have an unacceptable impact on the values of the zone or the reserve, and
 - iii. the action will be conducted in a manner not inconsistent with achieving the objectives of this Management Plan.
- 5.9.4 Dredge spoil must not be disposed of in
- a) Marine National Park zones (IUCN II),
 - b) Habitat Protections zones (IUCN IV).
- 5.9.5 A permit may be issued for disposal of dredge spoil in Multiple Use zones and Special Purpose zones if the Director is satisfied:
- a) the operation is necessarily critical to other operations in the zone or elsewhere;
 - b) it is not practicable for the operation to be conducted outside the zone;

- c) the operation is not likely to have an unacceptable impact on the values of the zone or the reserve, and
- d) the operation will be conducted in a manner not inconsistent with achieving the objectives of this Management Plan.

Table 5.8: Summary of management arrangements for structures and works activities in the South-west Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network

Activity	Marine National Park Zone (IUCN II)	Habitat Protection Zone (IUCN IV)	Multiple Use Zone (IUCN VI)	Special Purpose Zone (Oil and Gas Exclusion) (IUCN VI)	Special Purpose Zone (IUCN VI)
Structures and works – including moorings, excavation and maintenance	x	P	P	P	P
Structures and works – disposal of dredge spoil	x	x	P	P	P

x Activity is not allowed at all (i.e. totally prohibited).

P Activity is allowed in accordance with a permit issued by the Director of National Parks.

Note: Refer to Appendix A for information on zones within specific marine reserves of the South-west marine reserves network.

5.10 Research and monitoring activities

Research and monitoring is important for understanding marine biodiversity, and improving capacity for sustainable use, weather prediction and understanding climate change. Research and monitoring activities are conducted by both public and private institutions, including, on occasion, by foreign institutions and companies.

Research and monitoring activities in the South-west marine reserves network are prohibited by r.12.10 of the EPBC Regulations unless authorised by this Management Plan. Research and monitoring that involves actions which affect members of native species are prohibited by ss.354 and 354A of the EPBC Act unless done in accordance with this Plan. Actions that affect listed threatened species or ecological communities, listed migratory species, cetaceans or listed marine species must also comply with the provisions of Part 13 of the EPBC Act, unless carried out in accordance with this Plan.

Where biological resources are sought for research and development on their genetic or biochemical components, a permit is required under Part 8A of the EPBC Regulations, which operates subject to this Plan.

The prescriptions in this section enable research and monitoring activities to be undertaken. Research and monitoring activities will be allowable in all zones of the South-west marine reserves network in accordance with a permit issued by the Director of National Parks. In Marine National Park zones, extractive activities are generally considered inconsistent. However, in recognising the important contribution that scientific research makes to the effective management of marine reserves, this Plan provides for authorisation of extractive research activities.

A summary of management arrangements for research and monitoring activities in the South-west marine reserves network is provided in Table 5.9.

Prescriptions

5.10.1 The Director may carry out research and monitoring in the South-west marine reserves network that involves actions covered by ss.354 and 354A and Part 13 of the EPBC Act.

- 5.10.2 A person other than the Director may carry out research and monitoring in the South-west marine reserves network, including taking actions covered by the EPBC Act ss.354 and 354A and Part 13 of the EPBC Act, in the South-west marine reserves network in accordance with and subject to:
- a) a permit or class approval issued under Section 5.2
 - b) the other prescriptions in this section; and
 - c) the prescriptions in Section 5.3 (General use and access).
- 5.10.3 A class approval will not be issued for research that involves activities covered by Sections 5.10.6 and 5.10.7.
- 5.10.4 Research that involves access to biological resources within the meaning of Part 8A of the EPBC Regulations must comply with the requirements of that Part (in addition to the requirements of this section).
- 5.10.5 In assessing permit applications, consideration will be given to the nature of and potential impacts of the actions, the aim of the project, ethical issues and how knowledge from the project might benefit the understanding and management of the South-west marine reserves network.
- 5.10.6 A permit may be issued to carry on extractive research and monitoring activities in Marine National Park zones (IUCN II) in the South-west marine reserves if the Director is satisfied
- a) it is not practicable for the action to be conducted outside the zone;
 - b) the research is relevant to, or a priority for, the management of the marine reserve network;
 - c) the action is not likely to have an unacceptable impact on the values of the zone or the reserve, and
 - d) the action will be conducted in a manner not inconsistent with achieving the objectives of this Management Plan.
- 5.10.7 A permit may be issued to carry on, in the South-west marine reserves network, research and monitoring that involves activities that are prohibited under Section 5.5 if the Director is satisfied:
- a) the project is proposed to be conducted in an area where the same or similar research and monitoring has been conducted previously
 - b) it is not practicable for the project to be conducted outside the proposed area,
- and,
- c) the project will provide information relevant to understanding the impacts of the activities on the marine environment or to supporting sustainable use within the marine reserves;
 - d) the project activities will not have an unacceptable impact on the values of the area in which the research or monitoring will be conducted;
 - e) the project will be conducted in a manner not inconsistent with achieving the objectives of this management plan.
- 5.10. Permit holders must make results of research and monitoring available to the Director (and in a specified format where relevant), where that information will improve the knowledge and understanding of the biodiversity and ecosystems of the South-west marine reserves network and might benefit management of the marine reserves network.

Table 5.9: Summary of management arrangements for research and monitoring activities in the South-west Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network

Activity	Marine National Park Zone (IUCN II)	Habitat Protection Zone (IUCN IV)	Multiple Use Zone (IUCN VI)	Special Purpose Zone (Oil and Gas Exclusion) (IUCN VI)	Special Purpose Zone (IUCN VI)
Research and monitoring activities	P	P	P	P	P

P Activity is allowable in accordance with a permit issued by the Director of National Parks. Research and monitoring activities may also be authorised under a class approval issued under Section 5.2.7, but not where 5.10.6 and 5.10.7 apply.

Note: Refer to Appendix A for information on zones within specific marine reserves of the South-west marine reserves network.

5.11 Defence, border protection, law enforcement and emergency response

A number of Commonwealth agencies enter marine reserves for purposes relating to defence, border protection, law enforcement and emergency response. These agencies include the Australian Defence Force, the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service, Australian Fisheries Management Authority, the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority and the Australian Maritime Safety Authority. There is no intention to limit training or operations for the Australian Defence Force, Customs and Border Protection Service, law enforcement or emergency response through the marine reserves network.

Provisions of the EPBC Act (ss.354 and 354A) and the Regulations (Division 12.2) relating to Commonwealth reserves apply generally to the Commonwealth and its agencies. In addition, s.362(2) of the Act requires the Commonwealth and Commonwealth agencies to perform functions and exercise powers in relation to Commonwealth reserves in a way that is not inconsistent with this Management Plan. This Plan allows for the conduct of necessary government operations in the South-west marine reserves network.

A summary of management arrangements for defence, border protection, law enforcement and emergency response activities in the South-west marine reserves network is provided in Table 5.10.

Prescriptions

5.11.1 The Commonwealth and Commonwealth agencies may take actions in the South-west marine reserves network that are covered by ss.354 and 354A and Part 13 of the EPBC Act, and activities covered by Division 12.2 of the EPBC Regulations:

- a) for the purposes of training and operations for defence, customs, border protection, law enforcement or emergency response (without the need for a permit or class approval issued under Section 5.2); or
- b) for other purposes under a permit or class approval issued by the Director in accordance with Section 5.2 of this Plan, subject to the prescriptions in Section 5.3 (General use and access).

5.11.2 The Commonwealth and Commonwealth agencies should, so far as practicable, liaise with the Director in relation to the performance of functions and exercise of powers in the South-west marine reserves network to minimise the risk of unacceptable impacts and unnecessary interference with the use of the network by other users.

Table 5.10: Summary of management arrangements for defence, border protection, law enforcement and emergency response activities in the South-west Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network

Activity	Marine National Park Zone (IUCN II)	Habitat Protection Zone (IUCN IV)	Multiple Use Zone (IUCN VI)	Special Purpose Zone (Oil and Gas Exclusion) (IUCN VI)	Special Purpose Zone (IUCN VI)
Defence, border protection, law enforcement and emergency response	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Actions by Commonwealth and Commonwealth agencies - other and not covered elsewhere by this plan	P	P	P	P	P

✓ Activity is allowed in specified zones in accordance with Plan prescriptions (permit or class approval not required).

P Activity is allowable in accordance with a permit issued by the Director of National Parks. This activity may also be authorised under a class approval issued under Section 5.2.7.

Note: Refer to Appendix A for information on zones within specific marine reserves of the South-west marine reserves network.

5.12 New activities and authorisations

Circumstances may arise or proposals may be brought forward for activities that were not known or anticipated at the time this Management Plan was prepared.

As noted in Appendix B and other sections in this part of the Plan, a range of actions and activities are prohibited or may be controlled by the Director of National Parks in Commonwealth reserves under the EPBC Act and Regulations, and certain actions may only be taken by the Director of National Parks in accordance with this Plan.

The purpose of this section is to allow the Director to respond to circumstances that are not covered by prescriptions in other sections of this Plan, provided that doing so is consistent with the objectives of the Plan in Section 1.2, the IUCN categories and zoning in Part 3 and the Strategies in Part 4.

Ensuring activities do not impact on the values of the reserve while also reducing unnecessary administrative burdens on marine reserve management resources and stakeholders, is a key focus of this Plan as reflected in Strategy 2 in Part 4 of the Plan. It is possible that during the life of this Plan more efficient and effective means of authorising actions under this Plan may be identified. Consistent with Strategy 2 this section would enable the Director to implement such mechanisms.

Note: Proposals for actions not covered by prescriptions in other sections of this Plan will be subject to assessment as outlined in Part 4 (Strategy 2) of this Plan.

Prescriptions

2.12.1 The Director may take actions that are not covered by specific prescriptions in this Management Plan, including actions covered by ss.354 and 354A of the EPBC Act.

- 2.12.2 The Director may authorise (by a permit or class approval under Section 5.2) actions by other persons that are not covered by specific prescriptions in this Management Plan, including actions covered by ss.354 and 354A of the EPBC Act and the EPBC Regulations.
- 2.12.3 The Director may grant new authorisations (approvals, permits or usage rights) in place of existing authorisations under this Plan.
- 2.12.4 The Director may make determinations, prohibitions or restrictions under provisions of Division 12.2 of the EPBC Regulations that are not covered by prescriptions in other sections of this part of the Plan.

APPENDIX A

The South-west Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network—marine reserve descriptions, values and maps

The following sections provide an overview of the 14 marine reserves in the South-west Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network, providing information on the proclamation, the assigned zones, the total area, the values, the location, a general description and a map for each reserve.

The individual activity tables in Part 5 should be referred to when determining the allowable activities in each of the 14 reserves and their respective zones.

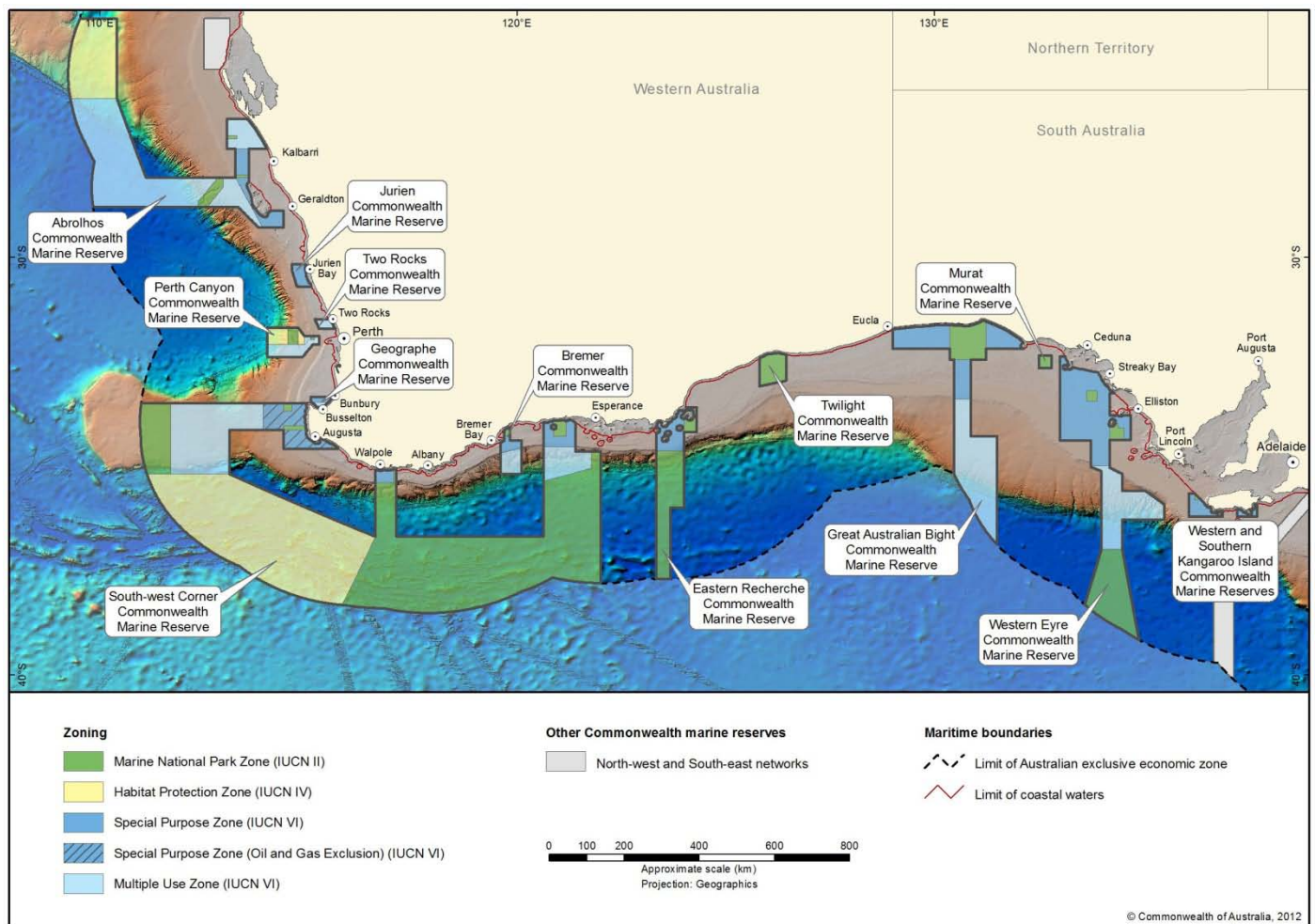


Figure A1: South-west Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network

Southern Kangaroo Island Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Date of effect	17 November 2012
IUCN category assigned to this reserve	IUCN VI
Assigned zones in reserve under this management plan	Special Purpose Zone (IUCN VI) (630 km ²)
Depth of reserve below seabed	1000 m
Total area	630 km ² (203 km ² of which is located in the South-east Marine Region)
Major conservation values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important foraging areas for the threatened: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Australian sea lion - white shark • Important seasonal calving habitat for the threatened southern right whale • Examples of the southernmost ecosystems of the Spencer Gulf Shelf Province (including the Eyre mesoscale bioregion) • Includes one key ecological feature: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kangaroo Island Pool, canyons and adjacent shelf break, and Eyre Peninsula upwelling (high productivity, breeding and feeding aggregations)
Location	The Southern Kangaroo Island Commonwealth Marine Reserve is adjacent to South Australia's Southern Kangaroo Island Marine Park.
General description	<p>The Southern Kangaroo Island Commonwealth Marine Reserve increases protection of the shelf habitats surrounding Kangaroo Island in depths of about 15-100 metres, by connecting to and complementing the South Australian Kangaroo Island Marine Park.</p> <p>These waters are host to rich and diverse marine life. Kangaroo Island has one of the eight largest known Australian sea lion breeding colonies at Seal Bay on the south coast of the island, producing more than 100 pups a year. The area is an important foraging site for both the sea lion and the white shark.</p> <p>The reserve captures parts of the Kangaroo Island Pool and canyons, which are known for their seasonal upwellings of deep ocean waters that support aggregations of krill, small pelagic fish and squid, attracting marine mammals, sharks, large fish and seabirds.</p>

Western Kangaroo Island Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Date of effect	17 November 2012
IUCN category assigned to this reserve	IUCN VI
Assigned zones in reserve under this management plan	Marine National Park Zone (IUCN II) (120 km ²) Special Purpose Zone (IUCN VI) (2215 km ²)
Depth of reserve below seabed	1000 m
Total area of reserve	2335 km ²
Major conservation values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important foraging areas for the threatened: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Australian sea lion - white shark - blue whale • Important foraging areas for the migratory: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - sperm whale - short-tailed shearwater and Caspian tern • Important seasonal calving habitat for the threatened southern right whale • Examples of the southernmost ecosystems of the Spencer Gulf Shelf Province (including the Eyre mesoscale bioregion) • Include two key ecological features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ancient coastline 90-120 m (high productivity) - Kangaroo Island Pool, canyons and adjacent shelf break, and Eyre Peninsula upwelling (high productivity, breeding and feeding aggregations)
Location	The Western Kangaroo Island Commonwealth Reserve is adjacent to South Australia's Western Kangaroo Island Marine Park.
General description	<p>The Western Kangaroo Island Marine Park enhances the protection of many of its conservation values, representing an area of shallow habitat in depths of about 15-165 metres. The reserve contains waters hosting rich and diverse marine life and abuts f the South Australian Western Kangaroo Island Marine Park.</p> <p>Kangaroo Island is host to one of the largest Australian sea lion breeding colonies, producing more than 100 pups a year. Waters within the reserve boundaries are also important foraging areas for New Zealand fur seals and many seabird species, such as the short-tailed shearwater and Caspian tern.</p> <p>The reserve protects a key ecological feature of the South-west</p>

Marine Region, the 'Kangaroo Island Pool' west of Kangaroo Island. A hotspot for productivity, with feeding aggregations for a range of whale species including endangered blue and pygmy blue whales. During summer, pygmy blue whales feed on krill aggregations associated with upwelling of nutrient-rich waters.

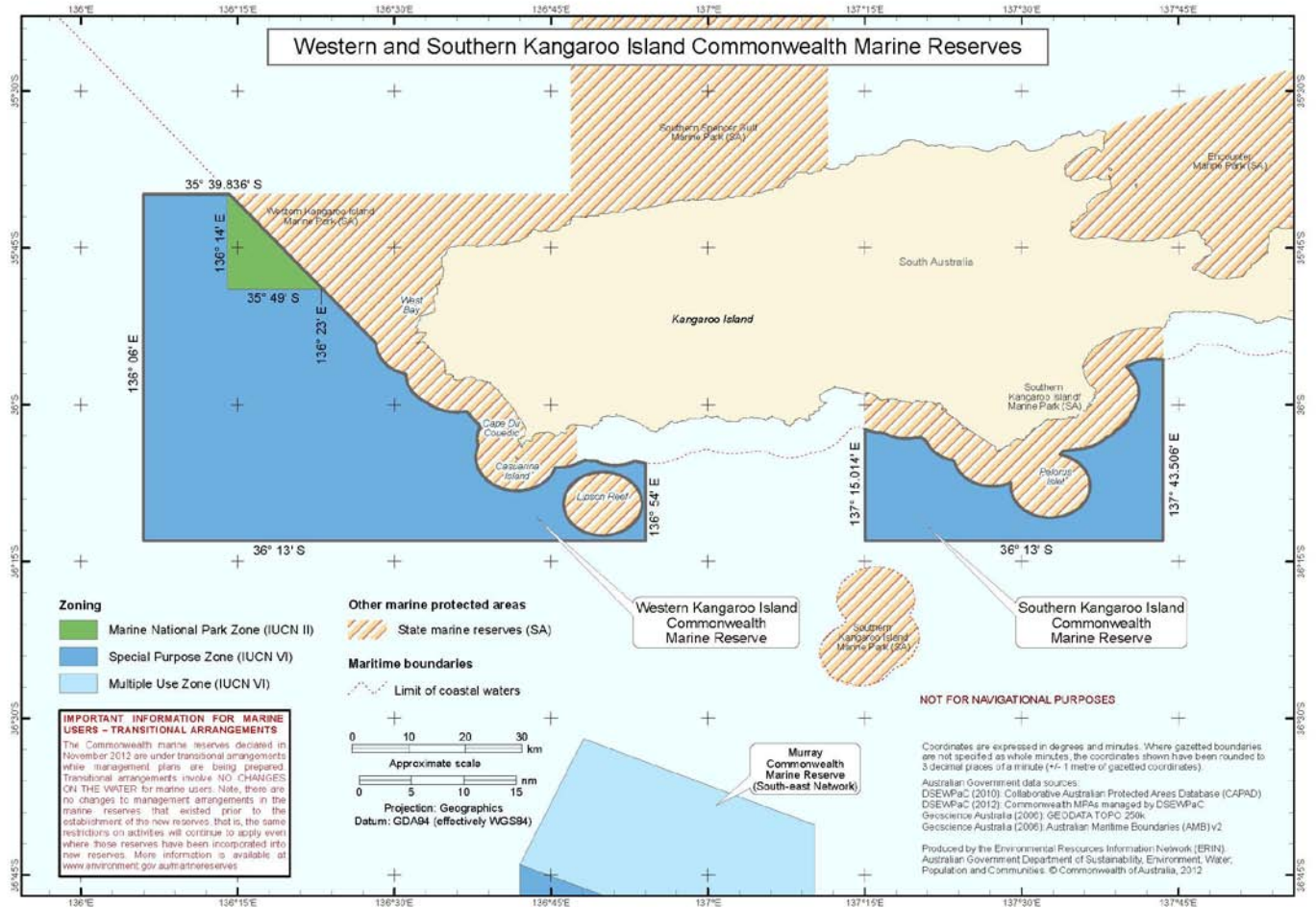


Figure A2: Western and Southern Kangaroo Island Commonwealth Marine Reserves

Western Eyre Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Date of effect	17 November 2012
IUCN category to this reserve	IUCN VI
Assigned zones in reserve under this management plan	Marine National Park Zone (IUCN II) (17 439 km ²) Special Purpose Zone (IUCN VI) (24 400 km ²) Multiple Use Zone (IUCN VI) (16 107 km ²)
Depth of reserve below seabed	1000 m
Total area	57 946 km ² (17 438 km ² of which is located in the South-east Marine Region)
Major conservation values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important foraging areas for the threatened: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Australian sea lion - white shark - blue whale • Important foraging areas for the migratory: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - sperm whale - short-tailed shearwater and Caspian tern • Important seasonal calving habitat for the threatened southern right whale • Examples of the westernmost ecosystems of the Spencer Gulf Shelf Province (including the Eyre mesoscale bioregion) and the easternmost ecosystems of the Great Australian Bight Shelf Transition (including the Murat mesoscale bioregion) • Examples of the easternmost ecosystems of the Southern Province • Includes five key ecological features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ancient coastline 90-120 m (high productivity) - Kangaroo Island Pool, canyons and adjacent shelf break, and Eyre Peninsula upwelling (high productivity, breeding and feeding aggregations) - mesoscale eddies (high productivity and feeding aggregations) - benthic invertebrate communities of the eastern Great Australian Bight (communities with high species diversity) - areas important for small pelagic fish (species group with an important ecological role)
Location	The Western Eyre Commonwealth Marine Reserve is adjacent to South Australia's Investigator, West Coast Bays and Nuyts Archipelago marine parks.

<p>General description</p>	<p>The Western Eyre Commonwealth Marine Reserve the Commonwealth marine environment associated with the continental shelf adjacent to and offshore, from the Nuyts Archipelago southeast to the Investigator Group, and extending into the deep abyssal zone of the eastern Great Australian Bight off the Eyre Peninsula.</p> <p>The reserve abuts the South Australian Investigator and West Coast Bays and Nuyts Archipelago Marine Parks and covers a depth range from about 15 metres at the state water boundary, to abyssal depths of 6000 metres, or more, at the edge of Australia's exclusive economic zone.</p> <p>Waters surrounding the Nuyts Archipelago and Investigator Group, form part of the ecologically important offshore islands that protect the coastline. These, and other islands near the coastline, are home to key breeding colonies of the Australian sea lion.</p> <p>In the deep waters offshore of the reserve and stretching from Kangaroo Island to the west of the Eyre Peninsula, seasonally predictable local upwellings of nutrient rich water make this an area of regional ecological importance. The Kangaroo Island canyons support localised upwellings enhancing the seasonal production of krill, small pelagic fish and squid.</p> <p>This area is a hotspot for productivity, with feeding aggregations for a range of threatened whale species, aggregations of gulper sharks and spawning aggregations for a range of slope fish species. This area is also an important feeding area for seabirds including the crested tern, little penguin, and short-tailed shearwater.</p>
-----------------------------------	--

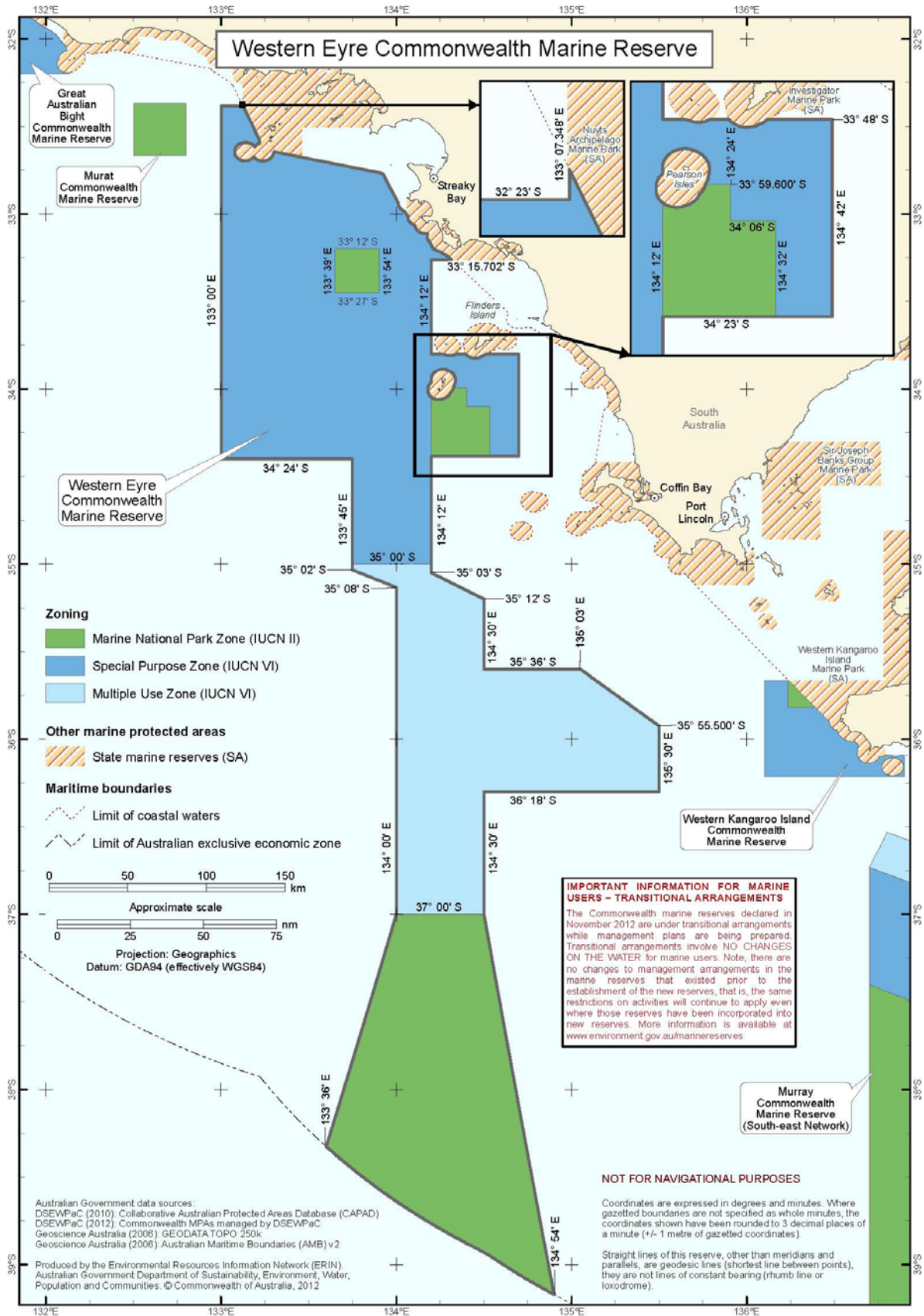


Figure A3: Western Eyre Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Murat Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Date of effect	17 November 2012
IUCN category to this reserve	IUCN II
Assigned zones in reserve under this management plan	Marine National Park Zone (IUCN II) (938 km ²)
Depth of reserve below seabed	1000 m
Total area	938 km ²
Major conservation values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important foraging areas for the threatened: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Australian sea lion - white shark • Important foraging areas for the migratory: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - short-tailed shearwater and Caspian tern • Examples of the ecosystems of the Great Australian Bight Shelf Transition and in particular, the Murat mesoscale bioregion • Provides protection for Yatala Reef • Includes two key ecological features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Benthic invertebrate communities of the eastern Great Australian Bight (communities with high species diversity) - areas important for small pelagic fish (species group with an important ecological role)
Location	The Murat Commonwealth Marine Reserve is south of South Australia's Nuyts Archipelago Marine Park
General description	<p>The Murat Commonwealth Marine Reserve is shallow in nature due to the nearshore location of the reserve, varying from 15-70 metres at its deepest. The reserve includes examples of habitats and communities of the Murat mesoscale bioregion in Marine National Park zoning and provides increased connectivity across protected areas of the region's southern shelf.</p> <p>The reserve is located offshore of the Yalata Indigenous Protected Area and provides protection for Yatala Reef.</p> <p>This reserve is a hotspot for productivity, with feeding aggregations for a range of species, such as the Australian sea lion and white shark. The reserve incorporates an important feeding area for seabirds including the Caspian tern and short-tailed shearwater.</p>

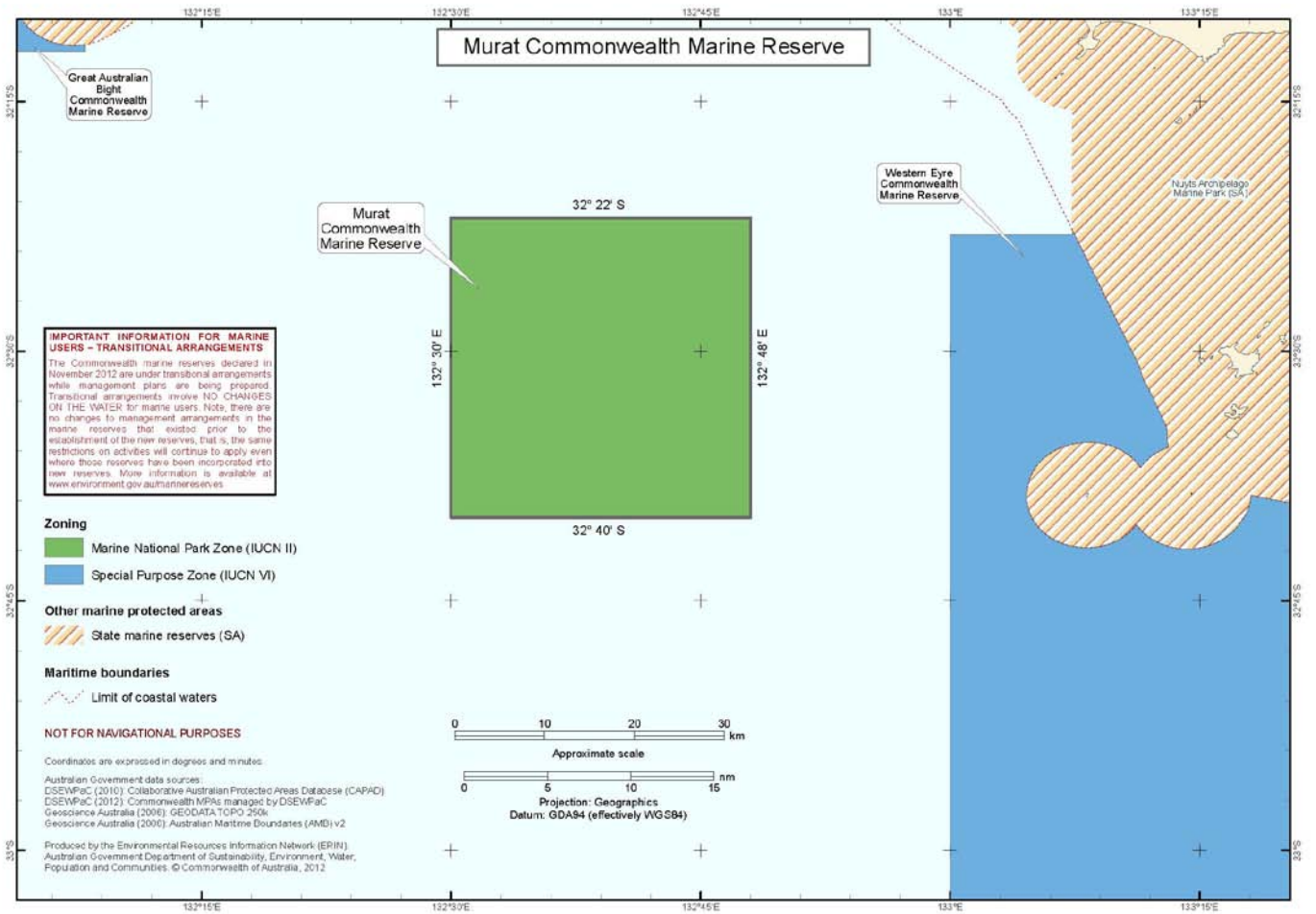


Figure A4: Murat Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Great Australian Bight Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Date of effect	17 November 2012
IUCN category to this reserve	IUCN VI
Assigned zones in reserve under this management plan	Marine National Park Zone (IUCN II) (7728 km ²) Special Purpose Zone (IUCN VI) (15 516 km ²) Multiple Use Zone (IUCN VI) (22 682 km ²)
Depth of reserve below seabed	1000 m
Total area	45 926 km ²
Major conservation values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important foraging areas for the threatened: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Australian sea lion - threatened white shark • Important foraging areas for the migratory: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - sperm whale - short-tailed shearwater • Globally important seasonal calving habitat for the threatened southern right whale • Examples of the central and western ecosystems of the Great Australian Bight Shelf Transition and the easternmost ecosystems of the Southern Province. • Includes three key ecological features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ancient coastline 90-120 m (high productivity) - benthic invertebrate communities of the eastern Great Australian Bight (communities with high species diversity) - areas important for small pelagic fish (species group with an important ecological role)
Location	The Great Australian Bight Commonwealth Marine Reserve encompasses the existing Great Australian Bight Marine Park (Commonwealth Waters) and is adjacent to South Australia's Far West Coast and Nuyts Archipelago marine parks
General description	<p>The Great Australian Bight Commonwealth Marine Reserve covers the Commonwealth marine environment associated with the continental shelf adjacent to and offshore from Eucla, east to Nuyts Reef and extending into the deep abyssal zone of the central Great Australian Bight. The reserve covers a depth range from about 15 metres at the state water boundary, to abyssal depths of 6000 metres or more at the edge of Australia's exclusive economic zone.</p> <p>The waters of the Great Australian Bight are recognised globally for their southern right whale calving grounds and breeding colonies of</p>

	<p>vulnerable Australian sea lions. Small pelagic fish, which have been identified as a key ecological feature of the region, provide an important trophic link between plankton communities and larger fish-eating predators in this area. The benthic invertebrate communities found on the inner shelf, particularly sponges, ascidians and bryozoans, are among the world's most diverse in soft sediment ecosystems.</p> <p>The shelf in this part of the region is also part of the world's largest cool-water carbonate province, an area of sediments dominated by the calcium carbonate remains, such as shells and skeletons, of marine organisms.</p> <p>The reserve boundaries not only capture marine environments characteristic of the bioregions in the area but also include examples of key seafloor features such as reef, submarine canyons and the unusually large expanse of terrace, a seafloor feature that lies between the continental shelf and the slope towards the deep ocean floor.</p>
--	--

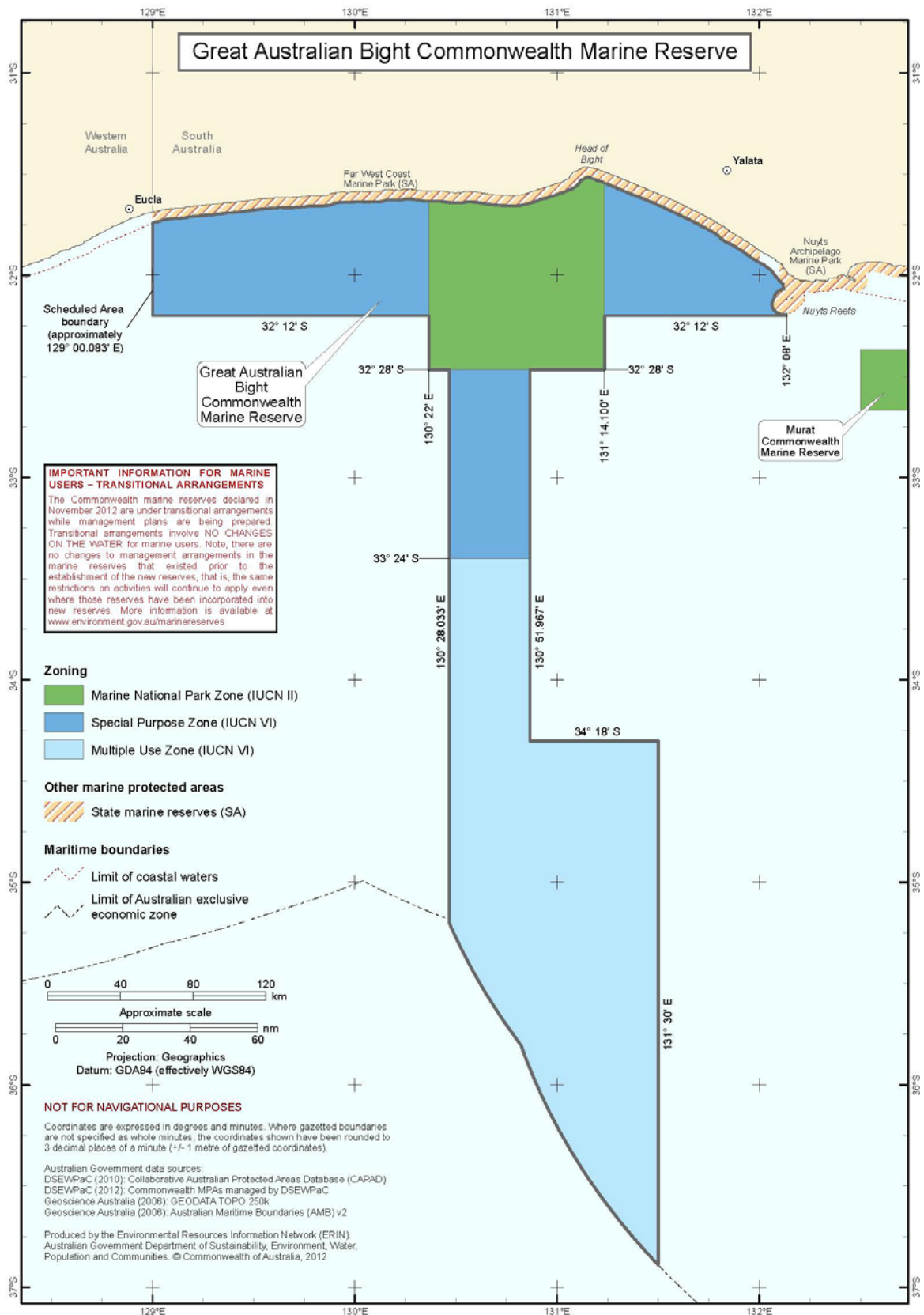


Figure A5: Great Australian Bight Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Twilight Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Date of effect	17 November 2012
IUCN category assigned to this reserve	IUCN II
Assigned zones in reserve under this management plan	Marine National Park Zone (IUCN II) (4641 km ²)
Depth of reserve below seabed	1000 m
Total area	4641 km ²
Major conservation values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important foraging areas for the threatened: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - white shark • Important foraging areas for the migratory: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - flesh-footed shearwater • Important seasonal calving habitat for the threatened southern right whale • Habitats surrounding important haul-out site for the threatened Australian sea lion • Examples of the westernmost ecosystems of the Great Australian Bight Shelf Transition (including examples of the Eucla mesoscale bioregion) • Increased connectivity of highly protected shelf ecosystems and representation of the south coast continental shelf environments
Location	The Twilight Commonwealth Marine Reserve is located directly adjacent to the state water boundary of Western Australia.
General description	<p>The Twilight Commonwealth Marine Reserve abuts the state water boundary of Western Australia and increases representation of the south coast continental shelf environments, contributing to the connectivity of protected areas across shelf ecosystems. The inshore location of the reserve captures shallow depths varying from 15-70 metres or above under high protection.</p> <p>The location of the reserve is offshore of Twilight Cove, a stretch of beach that extends 3 km to the base of the 100 m high cliff line. Twilight Cove is named after one of three known shipwrecks at the beach.</p> <p>The Twilight Commonwealth Marine Reserve protects habitats surrounding important haul-out sites for the threatened Australian sea lion and key foraging areas for both the Australian sea lion and the white shark. Important seasonal calving habitats for the southern right whale are also captured within the reserve.</p>

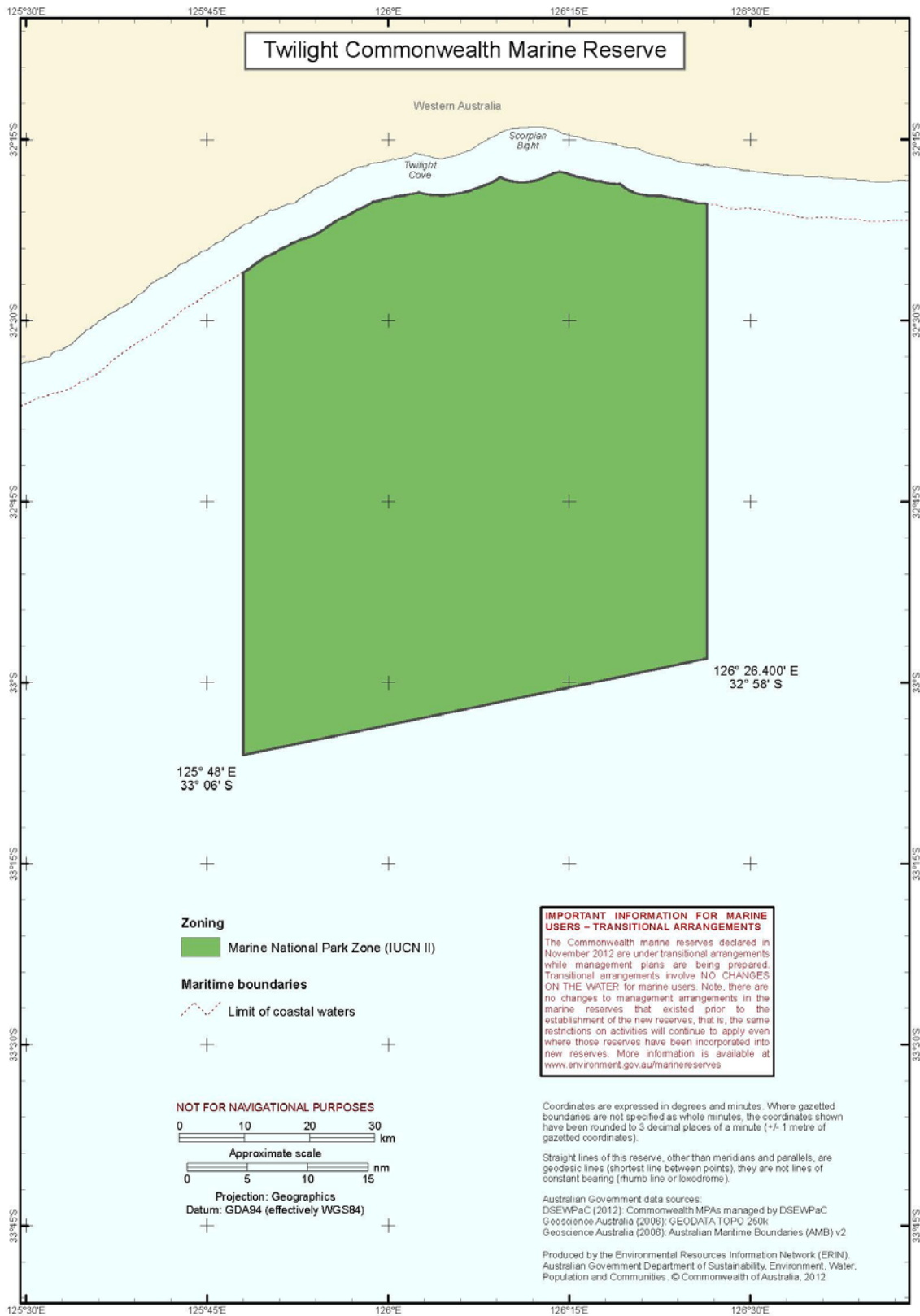


Figure A6: Twilight Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Eastern Recherche Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Date of effect	17 November 2012
IUCN category to this reserve	IUCN II
Assigned zones in reserve under this management plan	Marine National Park Zone (IUCN II) (16 072 km ²) Special Purpose Zone (IUCN VI) (4502 km ²)
Depth of reserve below seabed	1000 m
Total area	20 574 km ²
Major conservation values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important foraging areas for the threatened: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - white shark - Australian sea lion • Important foraging areas for the migratory: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - flesh-footed shearwater • Important seasonal calving habitat for the threatened southern right whale • Examples of the sea-floor habitats and communities of the eastern end of the Southwest Shelf province and the Southern province (including the Western Australian South Coast and Eucla mesoscale bioregions) • Examples of the westernmost ecosystems of the Great Australian Bight Shelf Transition • Include two key ecological features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - mesoscale eddies (high productivity, feeding aggregations) - Commonwealth waters surrounding the Recherche Archipelago (high biodiversity, breeding and resting aggregations, including the most extensive areas of reef on the shelf within the South-west Marine Region)
Location	The Eastern Recherche Commonwealth Marine Reserve is located adjacent to the Recherche Archipelago.
General description	<p>The Eastern Recherche Commonwealth Marine Reserve extends from the state water boundary to the edge of Australia's exclusive economic zone, covering a depth range from about 15 metres to abyssal depths of 6000 metres.</p> <p>The reserve provides protection to representative examples of habitats adjacent to the Recherche Archipelago, an area recognised globally for its biodiversity. The Archipelago contains over 150 islands stretching over 200 km² of ocean and represents the most extensive area of rocky reef environments in the region. Its reef and seagrass habitats support a high diversity of warm temperate</p>

	<p>species including 263 known species of fish, 347 species of molluscs, 300 species of sponges, and 242 species of macro-algae.</p> <p>The Eastern Recherche Commonwealth Marine Reserve captures one of the few areas where the reef extends into Commonwealth waters. A number of islands are picked up within the reserve such as the South East Isles and Round and Daw Island. The islands are important seabird breeding areas and the surrounding waters contain important breeding and foraging areas for Australian sea lions and New Zealand fur seals, and calving and resting areas for the endangered southern right whale.</p>
--	---

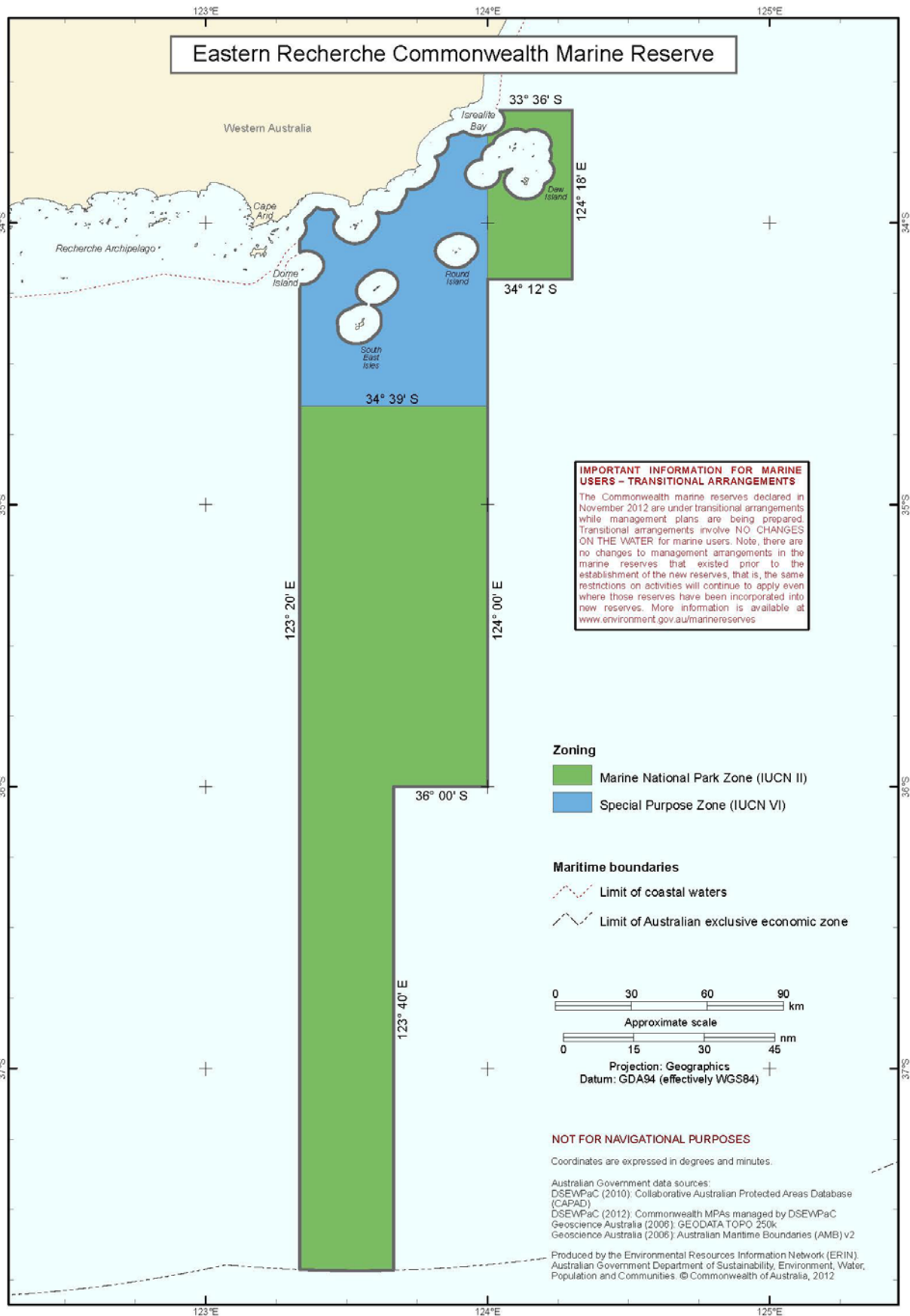


Figure A7: Eastern Recherche Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Bremer Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Date of effect	17 November 2012
IUCN category assigned to this reserve	IUCN VI
Assigned zones in reserve under this management plan	Marine National Park Zone (IUCN II) (284 km ²) Special Purpose Zone (IUCN VI) (1350 km ²) Multiple Use Zone (IUCN VI) (2838 km ²)
Depth of reserve below seabed	1000 m
Total area	4472 km ²
Major conservation values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important foraging areas for the threatened: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - white shark - Australian sea lion - Indian yellow-nosed albatross, soft-plumaged petrel and flesh-footed shearwater • Important migratory areas for protected humpback whales • Important seasonal calving habitat for the threatened southern right whale • Bremer Canyon, where sperm whales and killer whales are known to aggregate • Representation of the Southern Province and the South-west Shelf Province on the continental shelf and the Western Australia South Coast mesoscale bioregion • Includes one key ecological feature: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Albany Canyons group (high productivity, feeding aggregations)
Location	The Bremer Commonwealth Marine Reserve is located offshore of coastal environments protected in the Terrestrial Fitzgerald River National Park and Biosphere Reserve.
General description	<p>The Bremer Commonwealth Marine Reserve is located adjacent to the state water boundary and close to the Terrestrial Fitzgerald River National Park and the International Biosphere Reserve. The reserve covers a depth range from about 15 metres at the northern boundary, to depths of 5000 metres or more at the southern edge of the reserve.</p> <p>The Bremer Commonwealth Marine Reserve aims to provide protection to a significant calving area for southern right whales off Bremer Bay and to the Bremer Canyon (an important aggregation site for sperm and killer whales). Important foraging areas are captured within the reserve for species such as the white shark, Australian sea lion, and a range of seabirds including the Indian yellow-nosed albatross.</p>

	<p>Representation of the Albany Canyon group supports enhanced productivity within the Bremer marine reserve. In the summer months, nutrient rich water from deep are brought along the continental shelf to shallow waters along the inner shelf which support phytoplankton blooms. These blooms lead to high productivity and support extended food chains characterised by feeding aggregations of protected species including aggregations of orange roughy and sperm whales.</p>
--	--

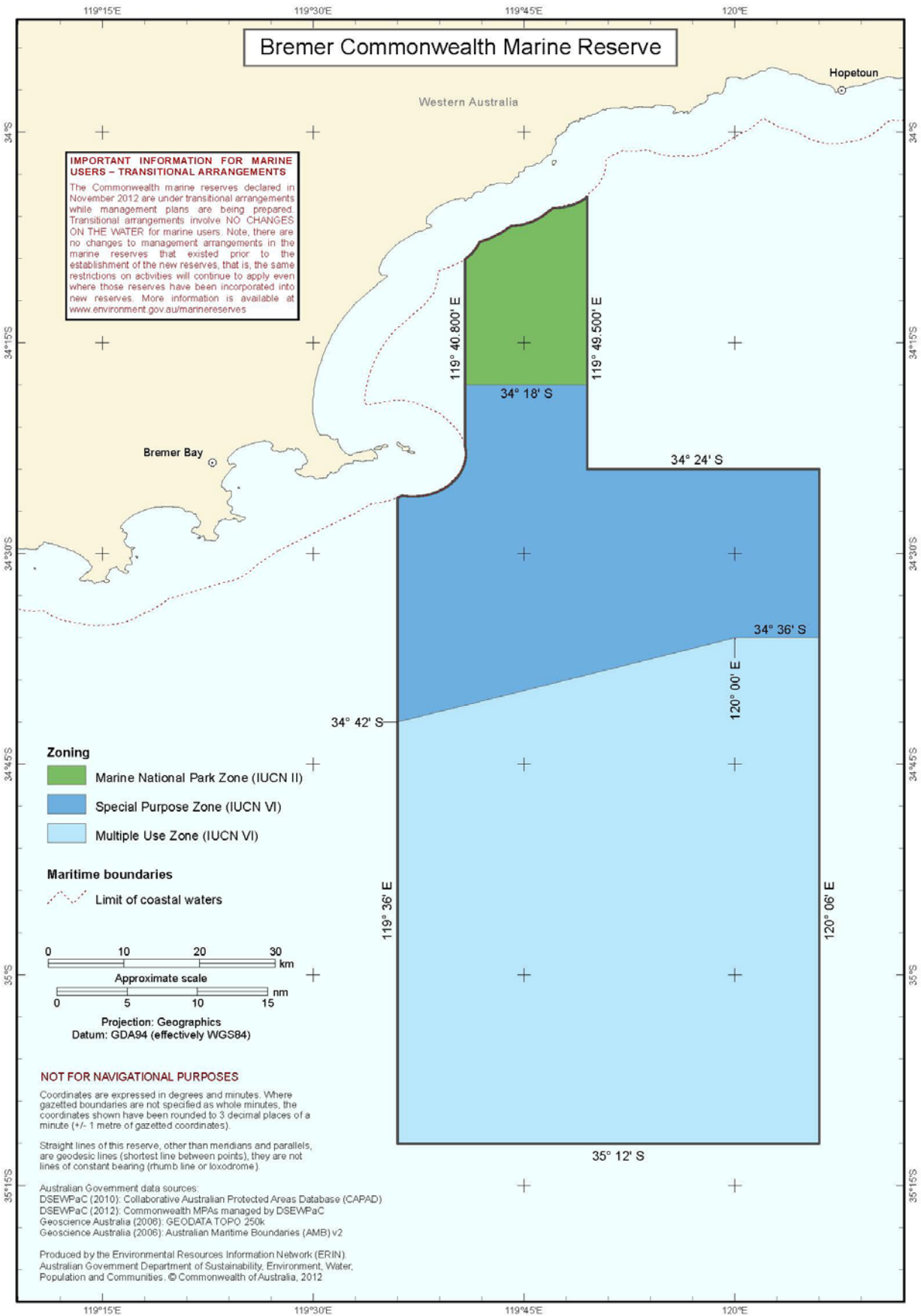


Figure A8: Bremer Commonwealth Marine Reserve

South-west Corner Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Date of effect	17 November 2012
IUCN category assigned to this reserve	IUCN II – Marine National Park Zone
Assigned zones in reserve under this management plan	<p>Marine National Park Zone (IUCN II) (128 676 km²)</p> <p>Habitat Protection Zone (IUCN IV) (91 904 km²)</p> <p>Special Purpose Zone (IUCN VI) (4900 km²)</p> <p>Special Purpose Zone (Oil and Gas Exclusion) (IUCN VI) (9550 km²)</p> <p>Multiple Use Zone (IUCN VI) (36 868 km²)</p>
Depth of reserve below seabed	1000 m
Total area	271 898 km ²
Major conservation values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important foraging areas for the threatened: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - white shark - Australian sea lion - Indian yellow-nosed albatross and soft-plumaged petrel • Important foraging areas for the migratory: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - sperm whale - flesh-footed shearwater, short-tailed shearwater and Caspian tern • Seasonal calving habitat for the threatened southern right whale • Important migratory area for protected humpback whales and blue whales • Representation of three provincial bioregions (the South-west Transition and Southern Province in the off-shelf area, and the South-west Shelf Province on the continental shelf) and two mesoscale bioregions (southern end of the Leeuwin-Naturaliste mesoscale bioregion and western and central parts of the Western Australia South Coast mesoscale bioregion) • Includes six key ecological features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Albany Canyon group (high productivity, feeding aggregations) - Cape Mentelle upwelling (high productivity) - Diamantina Fracture Zone (unique sea-floor feature likely to support deepwater communities characterised by high species diversity and endemism) - Naturaliste Plateau (unique sea-floor feature, likely to support deepwater communities characterised by high species diversity and endemism) - western rock lobster habitat (species with an important ecological role)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commonwealth marine environment surrounding the Recherche Archipelago (high biodiversity, breeding and resting aggregations, including the most extensive areas of reef on the shelf within the South-west Marine Region) • Representation of the Donnelly Banks, east of Augusta, characterised by higher productivity and including nursery habitats.
Location	The South-west Corner Commonwealth Marine Reserve is adjacent to Western Australia's Ngari Capes Marine Park and covers an area from Cape Leeuwin extending eastward to Esperance.
General description	<p>The South-west Corner Commonwealth Marine Reserve is the largest of the reserves, covering approximately 271 898 kilometres square of relatively pristine and unexploited ocean environments. It extends offshore from Cape Leeuwin to the edge of Australia's exclusive economic zone and includes parts of the Naturaliste Plateau. The reserve then extends eastwards, capturing deep offshore habitats of the Diamantina Fracture Zone before joining state waters to the west of Esperance. Due to its substantial latitudinal and longitudinal extent, the reserve protects a wide range of important ecosystems in both shallow and deep water reaching abyssal depths of up to 6400 metres or more.</p> <p>The South-west Corner marine reserve provides a unique opportunity to conserve in its natural condition an exclusive transect of protected land and sea extending from coastal land (existing Leeuwin-Naturaliste and D'entrecasteaux National Parks), to coastal waters (State Capes Marine Conservation Reserve Proposal) and into the deep ocean (South-west Corner Commonwealth Marine Reserve).</p> <p>The south-west corner of the continent is characterised by two distinctive geomorphic features, the Naturaliste Plateau and the Diamantina Fracture Zone, both of which are believed to be associated with rich and possibly unique biological communities. Large areas of both of these defined key ecological features are included in the reserve. East of Augusta, the reserve captures representation of the Donnelly Banks, an area characterised by its higher productivity.</p> <p>To the west of Cape Naturaliste the reserve captures part of the seasonal Cape Mentelle upwelling, also a key ecological feature. In the summer months, deep nutrient rich water is brought along the continental shelf to shallow waters along the inner shelf which support phytoplankton blooms. These blooms lead to high productivity and support extended food chains characterised by feeding aggregations of small pelagic fish, large predatory fish, seabirds, dolphins and sharks.</p> <p>The introduction of a Special Purpose (Oil and Gas Exclusion) Zone increases protection of the Capes area from potential pressures arising from future oil and gas activities. The South-west Corner Marine Reserve also includes biologically important areas for several whale species, including resting places for migrating humpback whales, areas where sperm whales feed, and a migration route for endangered blue whales.</p>

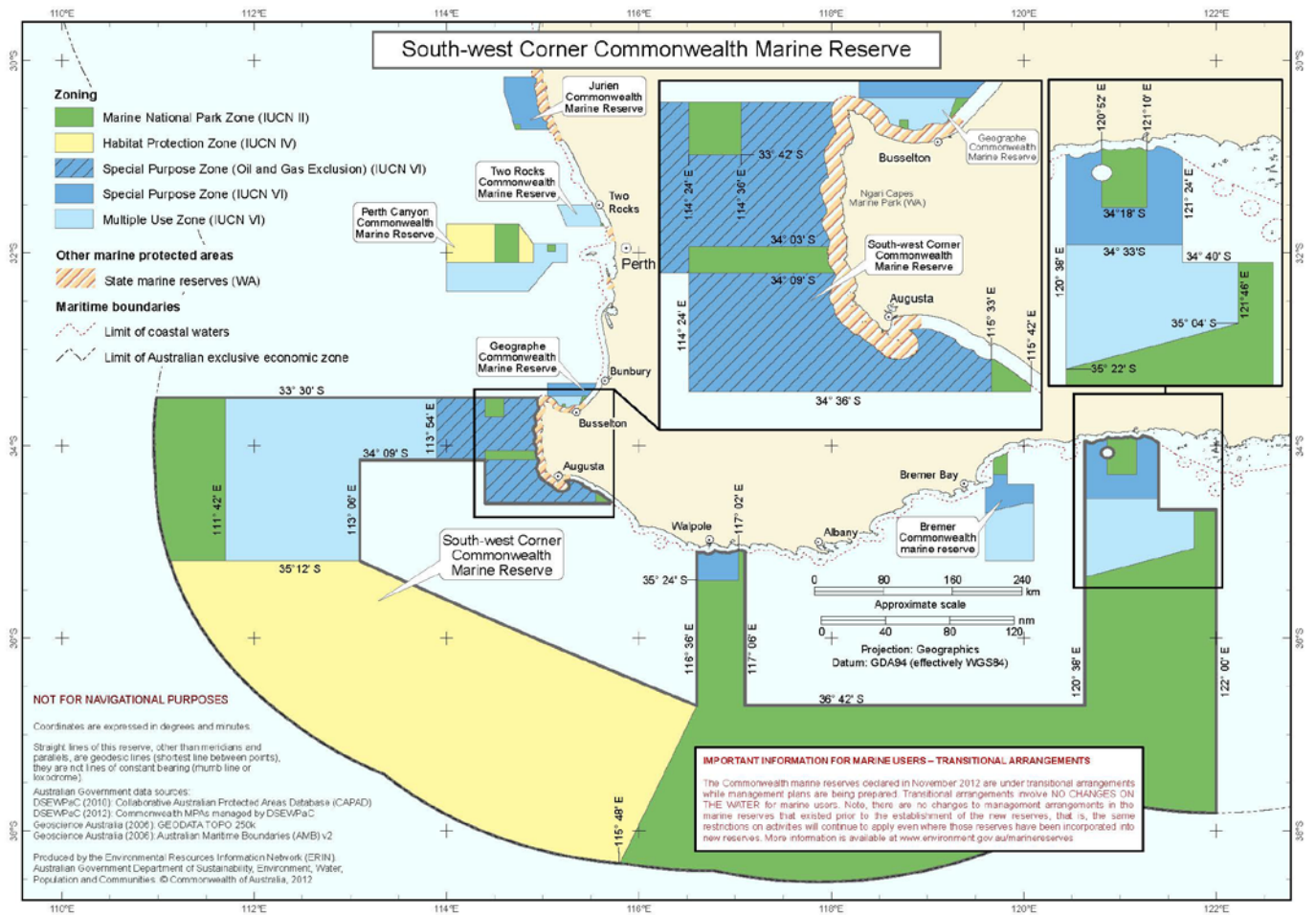


Figure A9: South-west Corner Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Geographe Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Date of effect	17 November 2012
IUCN category assigned to this reserve	IUCN VI
Assigned zones in reserve under this management plan	Marine National Park Zone (IUCN II) (36km ²) Special Purpose Zone (IUCN VI) (650km ²) Multiple Use Zone (IUCN VI) (291 km ²)
Depth of reserve below seabed	1000 m
Total area	977 km ²
Major conservation values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important foraging areas for the threatened: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - soft-plumaged petrel • Important foraging areas for the migratory: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - wedge-tailed shearwater • Important pre-migration aggregation area for the migratory flesh-footed shearwater • Important migratory habitat for the protected humpback whale and blue whale • Representation of the South-west Shelf Province on the continental shelf as well as the Leeuwin-Naturaliste mesoscale bioregion. • Includes two key ecological features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commonwealth marine environment within and adjacent to Geographe Bay (high benthic productivity, high biodiversity, feeding, resting, breeding and nursery aggregations) - western rock lobster habitat (species with an important ecological role) • Representation of the seagrass habitats of the Geographe Bay key ecological feature, which in this location extend the furthest into Commonwealth waters
Location	The Geographe Commonwealth Marine Reserve is adjacent to the Western Australia's Ngari Capes Marine Park.
General description	<p>The Geographe Commonwealth Marine Reserve is shallow in nature varying from 15-70 metres or above at its deepest due to its inshore location. The reserve is adjacent to the Western Australian Ngari Capes Marine Park which covers coastal waters between Geographe Bay and Augusta.</p> <p>Within the Geographe Bay reserve there are important resting areas for migrating humpback whales and blue whales as well as pre-migratory and foraging habitats for a range of seabirds.</p> <p>The reserve is located in Geographe Bay, an area of high productivity</p>

supported by extensive and diverse seagrass beds which extend into Commonwealth waters. Tropical and temperate seagrass species account for 80 per cent of the benthic primary production in the area. These meadows provide important nursery habitat for many species. Shoals of small planktivorous fish and squid in the bay are preyed upon seasonally by large schools of predatory fish.

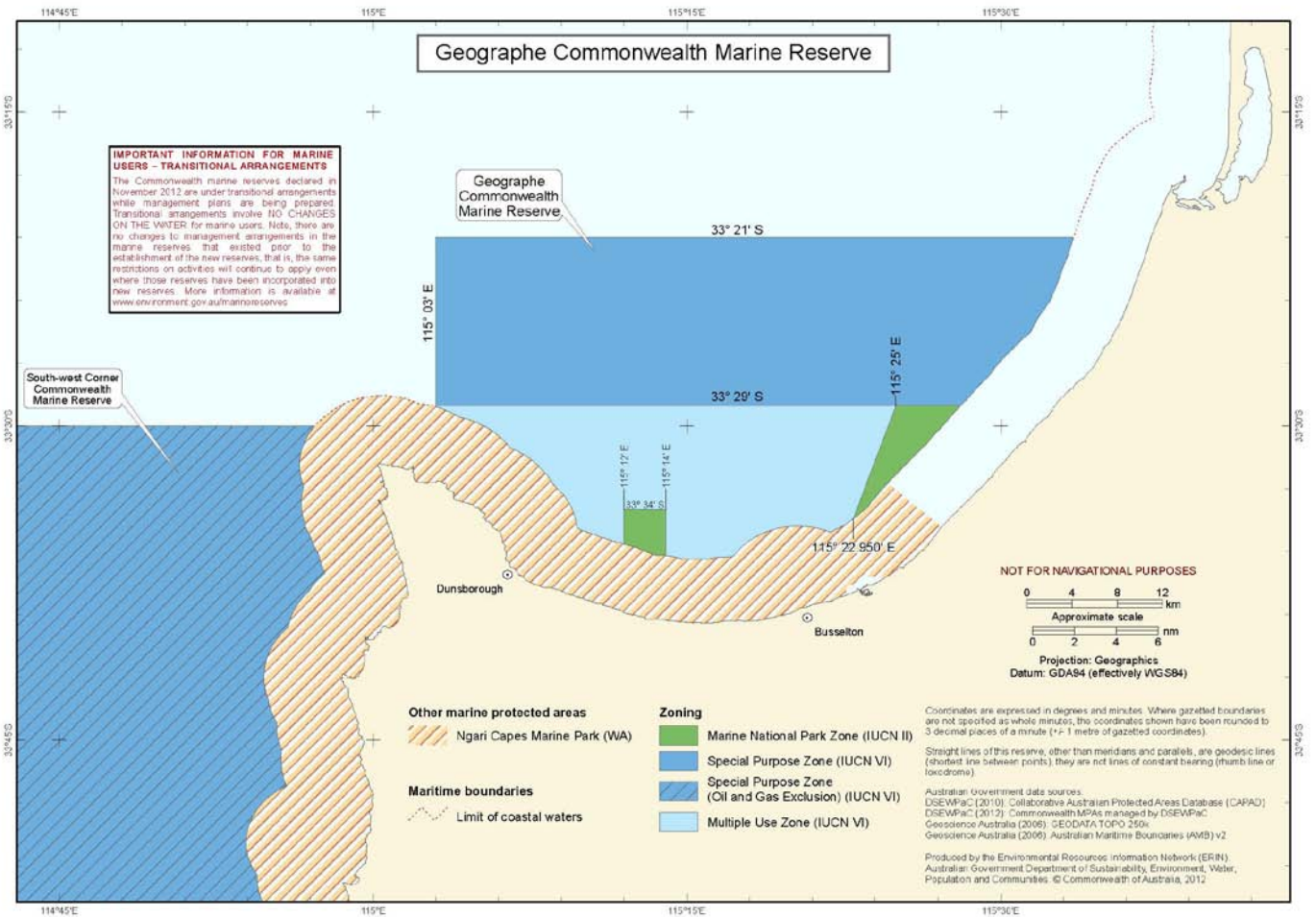


Figure A10: Geographe Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Perth Canyon Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Date of effect	17 November 2012
IUCN category assigned to this reserve	IUCN VI
Assigned zones in reserve under this management plan	Marine National Park Zone (IUCN II) (1107 km ²) Habitat Protection Zone (IUCN IV) (2569 km ²) Multiple Use Zone (IUCN VI) (3733 km ²)
Depth of reserve below seabed	1000 m
Total area	7409 km ²
Major conservation values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important foraging areas for the threatened: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - soft-plumaged petrel • Important foraging areas for the migratory: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - sperm whale - wedge-tailed shearwater • Important migratory area for the protected humpback whale • Globally important seasonal feeding aggregation for the threatened blue whale • Examples of the ecosystems of the southernmost parts of the Central Western Province and South-west Shelf Transition (including the Central West Coast mesoscale bioregion), and the northernmost parts of the South-west Transition and Southwest Shelf Province (including the Leeuwin-Naturaliste mesoscale bioregion) • Includes three key ecological features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Perth Canyon and other west-coast canyons (high productivity, feeding aggregations) - demersal slope fish communities (communities with high species diversity) - mesoscale eddies (high productivity, feeding aggregations)
Location	The Perth Canyon Commonwealth Marine Reserve is located off the state waters boundary north of Perth and Rottnest Island, extending westward into deep water off the continental shelf, and including parts of the iconic Perth Canyon. It is located west of Western Australia's Rottnest Island Reserve (declared an A class reserve in 1917).

<p>General description of the reserve</p>	<p>The reserve incorporates large parts of the Perth Canyon, Australia's largest submarine canyon and also a key ecological feature of the South-west Marine Region, being home to the largest feeding aggregations of blue whales in Australia. This unique feature is also of particular significance because it cuts into the continental shelf at approximately 150 metres depth west of Rottnest Island, linking the shelf with deeper ecosystems, which reach depths of up to 5000 metres.</p> <p>The area is representative of the southern end of the transition area from tropical to temperate marine environments, a gradient that extends from the tropical ecosystems of Shark Bay to the predominantly temperate communities found at this latitude. The Leeuwin Current influences the biodiversity of this area and pushes subtropical water southward.</p> <p>The topography of the Perth Canyon is thought to contribute to the frequent formation of eddies and frontal structures north of Rottnest Island. These eddies create nutrient-rich cold water, masses of enhanced productivity nearer the surface and attract feeding aggregations of marine mammals and large predatory fish.</p> <p>The Perth Canyon Commonwealth Marine Reserve is also an important migratory area for the humpback whale and a range of migratory seabirds forage within the reserve.</p>
--	---

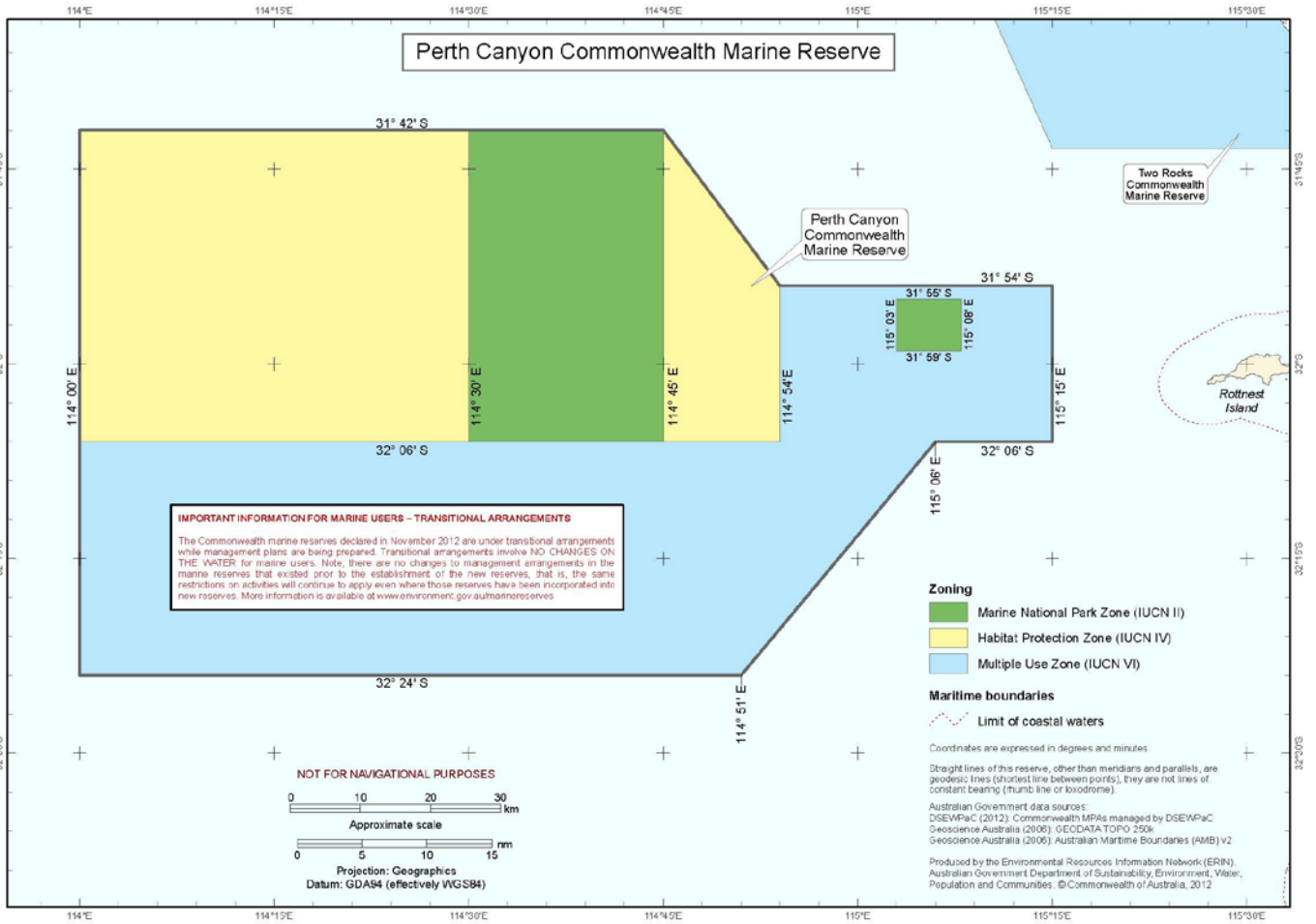


Figure A11: Perth Canyon Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Two Rocks Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Date of effect	17 November 2012
IUCN category assigned to this reserve	IUCN VI
Assigned zones in reserve under this management plan	Marine National Park Zone (IUCN II) (7 km ²) Multiple Use Zone (IUCN VI) (875 km ²)
Depth of reserve below seabed	1000 m
Total area	882 km ²
Major conservation values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important foraging areas for the threatened: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - soft-plumaged petrel - Australian sea lion • Important foraging areas for the migratory: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - migratory roseate tern, bridled tern, Caspian tern, wedge-tailed shearwater, and common noddy • Important migratory area for the protected humpback whale • Examples of the ecosystem of the southernmost parts of the South-west Shelf Transition (including the Central West Coast mesoscale bioregion) • Includes two key ecological features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - west-coast inshore lagoons (high productivity and aggregations of marine life) - western rock lobster habitat (species with an important ecological role)
Location	The Two Rocks Commonwealth Marine Reserve is located to the north-west of Western Australia's Marmion Marine Park.
General description	<p>The Two Rocks Commonwealth Marine Reserve is located adjacent to the Marmion Marine Park, Western Australia's first marine park towards the southern end of the reserve. Shallow in nature due to its nearshore location, the reserve covers a depth range of between approximately 15-120 metres.</p> <p>The Two Rocks reserve includes important foraging habitat for the threatened Australian sea lion along the west coast and is a migratory area for the protected humpback whale. Foraging habitat for a range of migratory seabirds are also represented.</p> <p>The reserve captures parts of the west-coast inshore lagoons which are important habitats for benthic productivity and a range of marine species. These inshore lagoons are key areas for the recruitment of the commercially and recreationally important western rock lobster, dhufish, pink snapper, breaksea cod, baldchin and blue groper, and many other reef species.</p>

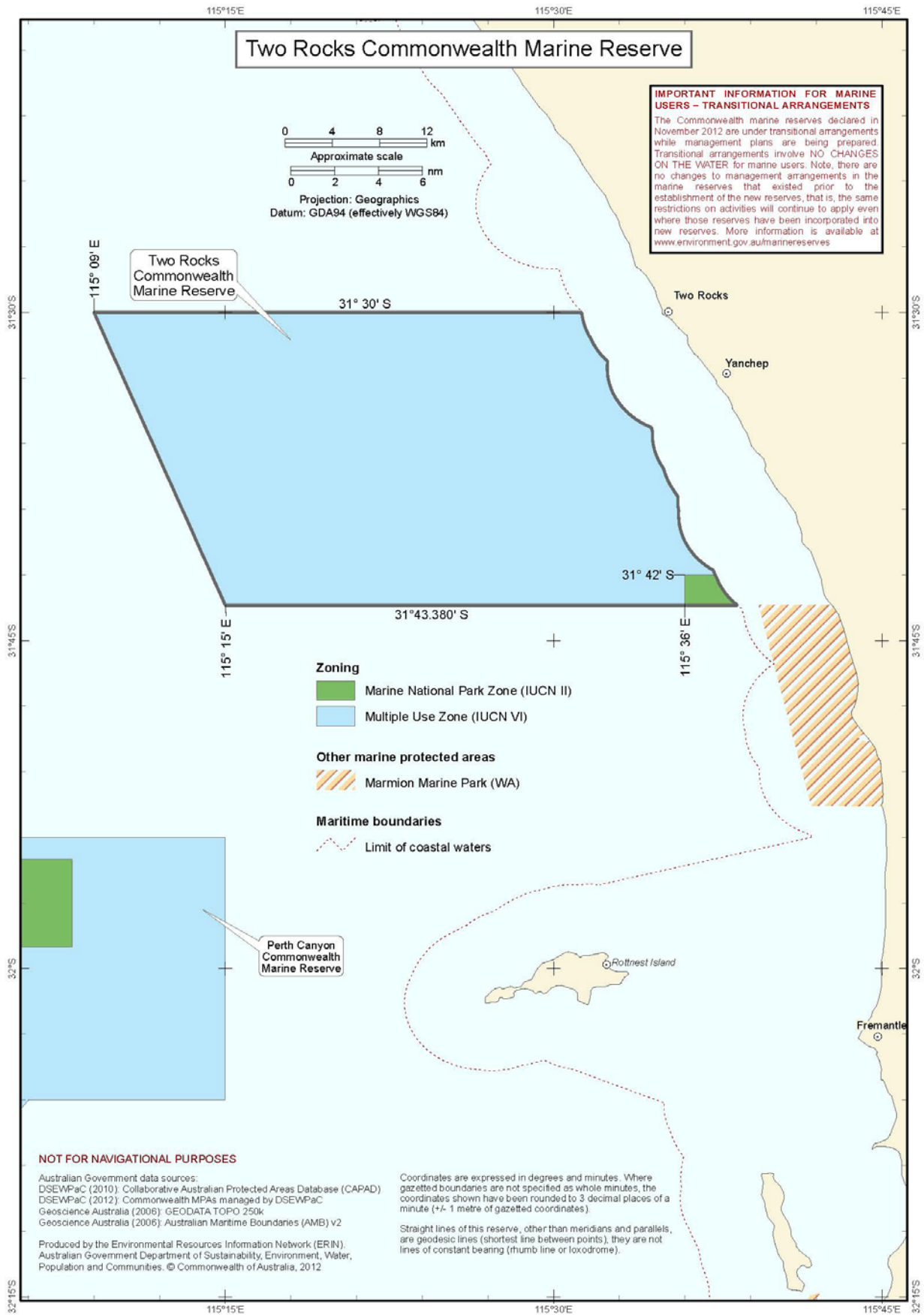


Figure A12: Two Rocks Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Jurien Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Date of effect	17 November 2012
IUCN category assigned to this reserve	IUCN VI
Assigned zones in reserve under this management plan	Marine National Park Zone (IUCN II) (31 km ²) Special Purpose Zone (IUCN VI) (1820km ²)
Depth of reserve below seabed	1000 m
Total area	1851 km ²
Major conservation values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important foraging areas for the threatened: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - soft-plumaged petrel - Australian sea lion - white shark • Important foraging areas for the migratory: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - roseate tern, bridled tern, wedge-tailed shearwater, and common noddy • Important migration habitat for the protected humpback whale • Examples of the ecosystems of two provincial bioregions: the central part of the South-west Shelf Transition (which includes the Central West Coast mesoscale bioregion) and small parts of the Central Western Province • Includes one key ecological feature : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - western rock lobster habitat (species with an important ecological role) • Heritage values represented by the SS Cambewarra historic shipwreck
Location	The Jurien Commonwealth Marine Reserve lies adjacent to the existing Western Australian Jurien Bay Marine Park in state waters.
General description	<p>The Jurien Commonwealth Marine Reserve abuts the existing Western Australian Jurien Bay Marine Park, which forms one of the only major breeding sites for Australian sea lions along the western coast of Australia. The reserve is located entirely over the continental shelf, ranging in depth approximately between 15-220 metres.</p> <p>The reserve includes important foraging habitat for the threatened Australian sea lion, the white shark and a range of migratory seabirds. Important migration habitat for the humpback whale is also represented.</p> <p>The Jurien marine reserve includes important shelf habitats defined by distinct ridges of limestone reef with extensive beds of macroalgae</p>

	<p>(principally <i>Ecklonia</i> species). These inshore lagoons are inhabited by a diverse range of coralline algae, sponges, molluscs, crustaceans and demersal and pelagic fish. Extensive schools of migratory fish visit the area annually.</p> <p>Seagrass meadows occur in more sheltered areas and in the inter-reef lagoons along exposed sections of the coast. Benthic communities on the outer shelf and shelf break are dominated by adult snapper, while filter feeding sponges and bryozoans dominate hard substrates.</p> <p>The Jurien Commonwealth Marine Reserve is home to the SS <i>Cambewarra</i> historic shipwreck, a cargo vessel wrecked 20 km north west of the Jurien Bay township in 1914.</p>
--	--

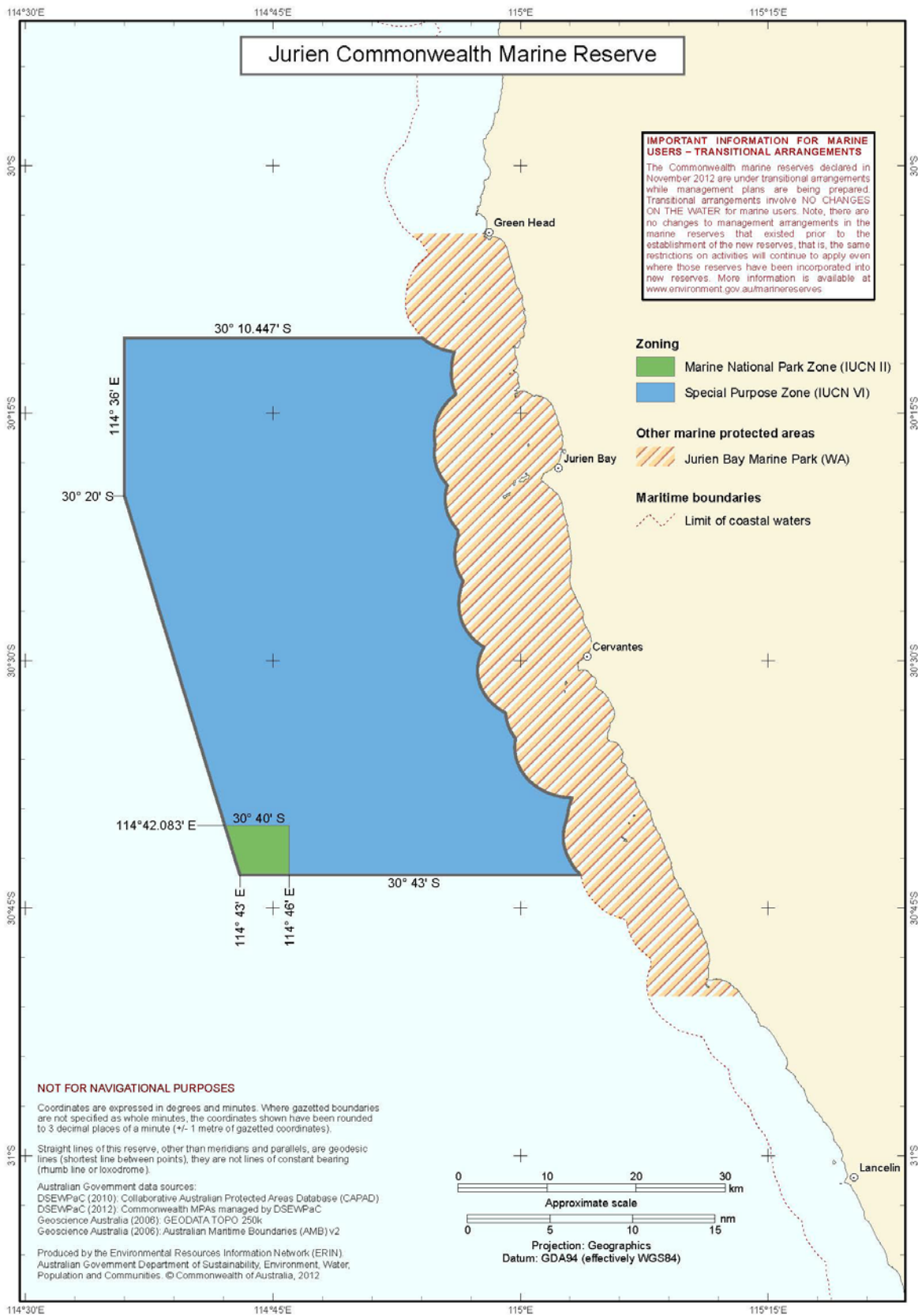


Figure A13: Jurien Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Abrolhos Commonwealth Marine Reserve

Date of effect	17 November 2012
IUCN category assigned to this reserve	IUCN VI
Assigned zones in reserve under this management plan	Marine National Park Zone (IUCN II) (2548 km ²) Habitat Protection Zone (IUCN IV) (23 239 km ²) Special Purpose Zone (IUCN VI) (5727 km ²) Multiple Use Zone (IUCN VI) (56 612 km ²)
Total area	88 126 km ² (25 871 km ² of which is located in the North-west Marine Region)
Depth of reserve below seabed	1000 m
Major conservation values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important foraging areas for the threatened: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Australian lesser noddy - northernmost breeding colony of the threatened Australian sea lion • Important foraging areas for the migratory: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - common noddy, wedge-tailed shearwater, bridled tern, Caspian tern and roseate tern • Important migration habitat for the protected humpback whale • Second largest canyon on the west coast, the Houtman Canyon • Examples of the northernmost ecosystems of the Central Western Province and South-west Shelf Transition (including the Central West Coast mesoscale bioregion) • Examples of the deeper ecosystems of the Abrolhos Islands mesoscale bioregion • Examples of the shallower, southernmost ecosystems of the Central Western Shelf Province provincial bioregion including the Zuytdorp mesoscale bioregion • Examples of the deeper ecosystems of the Central Western Transition provincial bioregion • Examples of diversity of seafloor features including: southern most banks and shoals of the North-west region; deep holes and valleys; slope habitats; terrace and shelf environments • Includes six key ecological features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commonwealth marine environment surrounding the Houtman Abrolhos Islands (high biodiversity, breeding and resting aggregations) - demersal slope and associated fish communities of the Central Western Province (communities with high species diversity) - mesoscale eddies (high productivity, feeding aggregations)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - west-coast canyons (high productivity, feeding aggregations) - western rock lobster habitat (species with an important ecological role) - Wallaby Saddle – a unique seafloor feature that supports aggregations of baitfish and attracts large pelagic predators including sperm whales
Location	The Abrolhos Commonwealth Marine Reserve is located in the Commonwealth marine environment adjacent to the Houtman Abrolhos Islands and extends into deep water off the continental shelf down to the abyssal plain (deep ocean floor). The northernmost part of the shelf component of the reserve, north of Kalbarri, is adjacent to the Shark Bay World Heritage Area.
General description	<p>The reserve covers a depth range from less than 15 metres to abyssal depths of approximately 6000 metres near the edge of Australia's exclusive economic zone.</p> <p>The Houtman Abrolhos Islands are among Australia's most important seabird breeding sites, with extensive foraging grounds in Commonwealth waters. The islands and surrounding reefs are also renowned for their high level of biodiversity, attributed to the mix of tropical, subtropical and temperate marine life resulting from the southward movement of species by the Leeuwin Current over thousands of years. The reefs contain 184 known species of corals, around 400 known fish species, 492 mollusc species, 110 sponge species, 172 echinoderm species and 234 species of algae.</p> <p>The extension of the Abrolhos Commonwealth Marine Reserve into the North-west Marine Region includes examples of a diverse range of distinct seafloor features including: southern most banks and shoals of the North-west region; deep holes and valleys; slope habitats; terrace and shelf environments.</p> <p>The shelf environments of the reserve provide key habitat for the western rock lobster, which is the dominant large benthic invertebrate of the bioregion and an important part of the food web. Important migration habitat for the humpback whale is represented by the reserve as well as part of the Wallaby Saddle, a seafloor feature known to attract large predators such as sperm whales.</p>

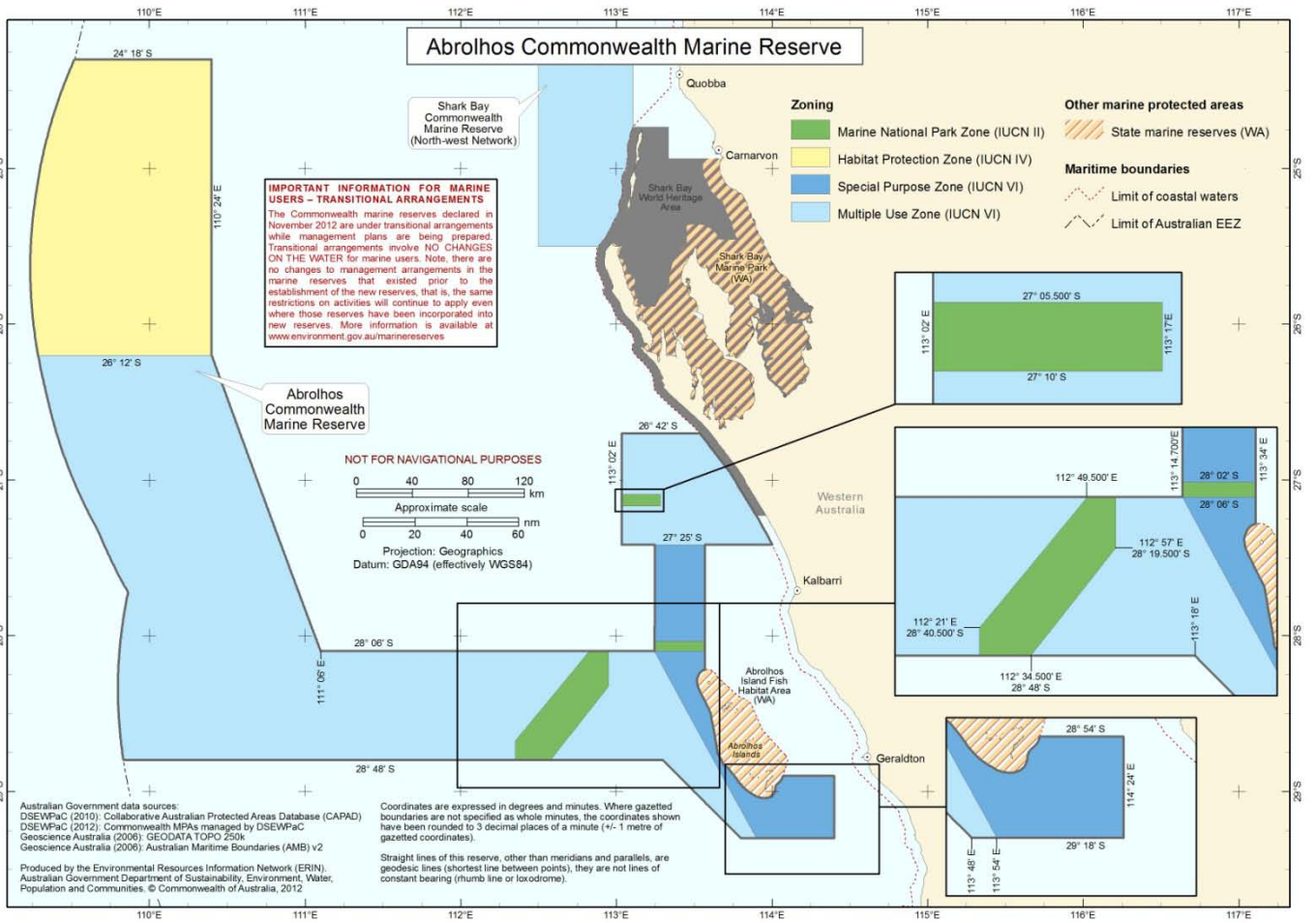


Figure A14: Abrolhos Commonwealth Marine Reserve

APPENDIX B

Legislative framework for the Reserves Network

The reserves of the South-west Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network are established under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act). The Act and the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000 (EPBC Regulations) under the Act provide the legal basis and framework for management of the network reserves. Other laws referred to in this Appendix may also be relevant to activities in the reserves. A number of international agreements relevant to management of the reserves are also described.

EPBC Act

Director of National Parks

The Director is a corporation under the EPBC Act (s.514A) and a Commonwealth authority for the purposes of the Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997. The corporation is has delegated certain powers and functions for managing the South-west Marine Reserves Network to relevant executive officers of the Marine Division within the Australian Government Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities.

IUCN categories and management principles

The EPBC Act requires Commonwealth reserves, and any zones into which a reserve is divided, to be assigned to one of the seven IUCN categories prescribed by the EPBC Regulations (r.10.03H), which correspond to the protected area management categories identified by the IUCN (see Appendix C):

- strict nature reserve;
- wilderness area;
- national park;
- natural monument;
- habitat/species management area;
- protected landscape/seascape; or
- managed resource protected area.

Reserve management must be consistent with the relevant Australian IUCN reserve management principles prescribed for each category by Schedule 8 to the EPBC Regulations and described below.

General administrative principles

Part 1 of Schedule 8 sets out general administrative principles applicable to all Commonwealth reserve. These principles underpin management approaches with regard to:

- community participation - management arrangements should, to the extent practicable, provide for broad and meaningful participation by the community, public organisations and private interests in designing and carrying out the functions of a reserve or zone
- effective and adaptive management - management arrangements should be effective and appropriate to the biodiversity objectives and the socio-economic context of the reserve or zone. They should be adaptive in character to ensure a capacity to respond to uncertainty and change

- the precautionary principle - a lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent degradation of the natural and cultural heritage of a reserve or zone where there is a threat of serious or irreversible damage
- minimising impacts - the integrity of a reserve or zone is best conserved by protecting it from disturbance and threatening processes. Potential adverse impacts on the natural, cultural and social environment and surrounding communities should be minimised as far as practicable
- ecologically sustainable use - if resource use is consistent with the management principles that apply to a reserve or zone, it should be based on the principle (the principle of ecologically sustainable use) that:
 - natural resources should only be used within their capacity to sustain natural processes while maintaining the life-support systems of nature, and
 - the benefit of the use to the present generation should not diminish the potential of the reserve or zone to meet the needs and aspirations of future generations
- transparency of decision-making - the framework and processes for decision-making for management of the reserve or zone should be transparent. The reason for making decisions should be publicly available, except to the extent that information, including information that is culturally sensitive or commercial-in-confidence, needs to be treated as confidential
- Joint management - if the reserve or zone is wholly or partly owned by Aboriginal people, continuing traditional use of the reserve or zone by resident indigenous people, including the protection and maintenance of cultural heritage, should be recognised.

Principles for each IUCN category

Part 2 of the Schedule sets out management principles applicable to each IUCN category. The principles provide guidance on the purposes for which an area should be used and the general types of activities that may be conducted. They underpin decisions and prescriptions for each IUCN category.

1. Strict Nature Reserve (IUCN Category Ia)

The reserve or zone should be managed primarily for scientific research or environmental monitoring based on the following principles:

- 1.1 Habitats, ecosystems and native species should be preserved in as undisturbed a state as possible.
- 1.2 Genetic resources should be maintained in a dynamic and evolutionary state.
- 1.3 Established ecological processes should be maintained.
- 1.4 Structural landscape features or rock exposures should be safeguarded.
- 1.5 Examples of the natural environment should be secured for scientific studies, environmental monitoring and education, including baseline areas from which all avoidable access is excluded.
- 1.6 Disturbance should be minimised by careful planning and execution of research and other approved activities.
- 1.7 Public access should be limited to the extent it is consistent with these principles.

2. National Park (IUCN Category II)

The reserve or zone should be protected and managed to preserve its natural condition according to the following principles:

- 2.1 Natural and scenic areas of national and international significance should be protected for spiritual, scientific, educational, and recreational or tourist purposes.
- 2.2 Representative examples of physiographic regions, biotic communities, genetic resources and native species should be perpetuated in as natural a state as possible to provide ecological stability and diversity.
- 2.3 Visitor use should be managed for inspirational, educational, cultural and recreational purposes at a level that will maintain the reserve or zone in a natural or near-natural state.

- 2.4 Management should seek to ensure that exploitation or occupation inconsistent with these principles does not occur.
- 2.5 Respect should be maintained for the ecological, geomorphologic, sacred and aesthetic attributes for which the reserve or zone was assigned to this category.
- 2.6 The needs of indigenous people should be taken into account, including subsistence resource use, to the extent that they do not conflict with these principles.
- 2.7 The aspirations of traditional owners of land within the reserve or zone, their continuing land management practices, the protection and maintenance of cultural heritage and the benefit the traditional owners derive from enterprises, established in the reserve or zone, consistent with these principles should be recognised and taken into account.

3. Habitat/Species Management Area (IUCN Category IV)

The reserve or zone should be managed primarily, including (if necessary) through active intervention, to ensure the maintenance of habitats or to meet the requirements of collections or specific species based on the following principles:

- 3.1 Habitat conditions necessary to protect significant species, groups or collections of species, biotic communities or physical features of the environment should be secured and maintained, if necessary through specific human manipulation.
- 3.2 Scientific research and environmental monitoring that contribute to reserve management should be facilitated as primary activities associated with sustainable resource management.
- 3.3 The reserve or zone may be developed for public education and appreciation of the characteristics of habitats, species or collections, and of the work of wildlife management.
- 3.4 Management should seek to ensure that exploitation or occupation inconsistent with these principles does not occur. People with rights or interests in the reserve or zone should be entitled to benefits derived from activities in the reserve or zone that are consistent with these principles.
- 3.5 If the reserve or zone is proclaimed for the purpose of a botanic garden, it should also be managed for the increase of knowledge, appreciation and enjoyment of Australia's plant heritage by establishing, as an integrated resource, a collection of living and herbarium specimens of Australian and related plants for study, interpretation, conservation and display.

4. Managed Resource Protected Area (IUCN Category VI)

The reserve or zone should be managed mainly for the sustainable use of natural ecosystems based on the following principles:

- 4.1 The biological diversity and other natural values of the reserve or zone should be protected and maintained in the long term.
- 4.2 Management practices should be applied to ensure ecologically sustainable use of the reserve or zone.
- 4.3 Management of the reserve or zone should contribute to regional and national development to the extent that this is consistent with these principles.

Management plans

The EPBC Act requires the Director to prepare a management plan for the Reserve. When prepared, a plan is given to the Minister administering the EPBC Act for approval. A management plan is a 'legislative instrument' for the purposes of the Legislative Instruments Act 2003 and must be registered under that Act. Following registration, the plan is tabled in each House of the Commonwealth Parliament and may be disallowed by either House on a motion moved within 15 sitting days of the House after tabling.

A management plan for a Commonwealth reserve has effect for ten years, subject to being revoked or amended earlier by another management plan for the reserve. The Director must give effect to a management plan in operation for a Commonwealth reserve. The Commonwealth and Commonwealth agencies must also not perform functions or exercise powers in relation to the reserve inconsistently with the plan (s.362).

Under the EPBC Act (s.367) a management plan for a Commonwealth reserve must provide for the protection and conservation of the reserve and, so far as relevant to the reserves, must:

- assign the reserve to an IUCN category
- state how the reserve, or each zone of the reserve, is to be managed
- state how the natural features of the reserve, or of each zone of the reserve, are to be protected and conserved
- specify any limitation or prohibition on the exercise of a power, or performance of a function, under the EPBC Act in or in relation to the reserve
- specify any mining operation, major excavation or other works that may be carried on in the reserve, and the conditions under which it may be carried on
- specify any other operation or activity that may be carried on in the reserve
- indicate generally the activities that are to be prohibited or regulated in the reserve, and the means of prohibiting or regulating them.

A management plan must also:

- indicate how the plan takes account of Australia's obligations under each agreement with one or more other countries that is relevant to the reserve (including the World Heritage Convention and the Ramsar Convention, if appropriate);
- if the reserve includes a National Heritage area
 - not be inconsistent with the National Heritage management principles
 - address the matters prescribed by regulations made for the purposes of paragraph 324S(4)(a); and
- if the reserve includes a Commonwealth Heritage area
 - not be inconsistent with the Commonwealth Heritage management principles
 - address the matters prescribed by regulations made for the purposes of paragraph 341S(4)(a).

A management plan may:

- divide a reserve into one or more zones, and must assign each zone to an IUCN category; and
- cover more than one Commonwealth reserve (s.367(5)), as is the case with the South-west Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network management plan.

In preparing a management plan the EPBC Act (s.368) requires account to be taken of various matters. In relation to the network reserves these matters include:

- the regulation of the use of the reserve for the purpose for which it was declared;
- the protection of the special features of the reserve, including objects and sites of biological, historical, palaeontological, archaeological, geological and geographical interest;
- the protection, conservation and management of biodiversity and heritage within the reserve;
- the protection of the reserve against damage; and
- Australia's obligations under agreements between Australia and one or more other countries relevant to the protection and conservation of biodiversity and heritage.

Control of actions in Commonwealth reserves

The EPBC Act (ss.354 and 354A) prohibits certain actions being taken in Commonwealth reserves except in accordance with a management plan. These actions are:

- kill, injure, take trade, keep or move a member of a native species; or
- damage heritage; or
- carry on an excavation; or
- erect a building or other structure; or

- carry out works; or
- take an action for commercial purposes.

The EPBC Act (ss.355 and 355A) also prohibits mining operations being taken in Commonwealth reserves except in accordance with a management plan.

Section 358 allows the Director to grant a lease or a licence relating to land or sea-bed in a Commonwealth reserve in accordance with a management plan.

The EPBC Regulations control, or allow the Director to control, a range of activities in Commonwealth reserves. Activities that are prohibited under the EPBC Regulations (Division 12.2) may be carried on if an exemption applies (r.12.06); for example, where an activity is authorised by a permit issued by the Director, or where a management plan that is in force for a Commonwealth reserve allows for the activity. The EPBC Regulations do not apply to the Director or to wardens or rangers appointed under the EPBC Act who are carrying out their duties.

Actions that may require additional approval under the EPBC Act

Environmental Impact Assessment

Actions that are likely to have a significant impact on 'matters of national environmental significance' are subject to the referral, assessment and approval provisions of Chapters 2 to 4 of the EPBC Act (irrespective of where the action is taken).

At the time of preparing this plan, the matters of national environmental significance identified in the EPBC Act are:

- World Heritage listed properties
- National Heritage listed places
- Ramsar wetlands of international importance
- nationally-listed threatened species and ecological communities
- listed migratory species
- nuclear actions (including uranium mining).
- Commonwealth marine areas
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

The referral, assessment and approval provisions also apply to actions on Commonwealth land that are likely to have a significant impact on the environment and to actions taken outside Commonwealth land that are likely to have a significant impact on the environment on Commonwealth land.

Responsibility for compliance with the assessment and approvals provisions of the EPBC Act lies with persons taking relevant 'controlled' actions. A person proposing to take an action that the person thinks may be or is a controlled action should refer the proposal to the Minister for the Minister's decision whether or not the action is a controlled action. The Director of National Parks may also refer proposed actions to the Minister.

Wildlife Protection

Wildlife Protection

Part 13 of the EPBC Act contains provisions that prohibit and regulate actions in relation to listed threatened species and ecological communities, listed migratory species, listed marine species in Commonwealth areas and to cetaceans (whales and dolphins) in the Australian Whale Sanctuary (encompassing all Commonwealth waters) established by the Act.

All whales, dolphins and porpoises are protected under the EPBC Act through the establishment of the Australian Whale Sanctuary, which includes all Commonwealth waters. Within the Australian Whale Sanctuary it is an offence to kill, injure or interfere with cetaceans. They are also protected in State and Territory waters.

Migratory species listed under the EPBC Act are species listed under international agreements (to which Australia is a signatory) as species whose protection requires, or would significantly benefit from, international cooperation. These international agreements are discussed in more detail in Appendix B.

Marine species listed under the EPBC Act are species occurring naturally in the Commonwealth marine area that the Australian Government recognises require protection to ensure their long-term conservation. Species listed as marine species are identified in Section 3.3 of the Act.

In relation to threatened species and communities, the EPBC Act also provides for the identification and listing of key threatening processes and the preparation of threat abatement plans and species recovery plans.

Actions taken in accordance with a Commonwealth reserve management plan that is in operation are exempt from prohibitions in Part 13 of the Act.

Access to biological resources

Access to biological resources in Commonwealth areas is regulated under the EPBC Regulations Part 8A and a permit from the Minister is required. Access to biological resources is defined in the EPBC Regulations and broadly means the taking of biological resources of native species for research and development on any genetic resources, or biochemical compounds, comprising or contained in the biological resources. Biological resources are defined by the EPBC Act as genetic resources, organisms, parts of organisms, populations and any other biotic component of an ecosystem with actual or potential use or value for humanity. Genetic resources are defined by the EPBC Act as any material of plant, animal, microbial or other origin that contains functional units of heredity, and that has actual or potential value for humanity.

Heritage Protection

The EPBC Act heritage protection provisions (ss.324A to 324ZC and ss.341A to 341ZH) relevantly provide:

- for the establishment and maintenance of a National Heritage List and a Commonwealth Heritage List, criteria and values for inclusion of places in either list and heritage management principles for places that are included in the two lists;
- that Commonwealth agencies must not take an action that is likely to have an adverse impact on the heritage values of a place included in either list unless there is no feasible and prudent alternative to taking the action and all measures that can reasonably be taken to mitigate the impact of the action on those values are taken; and
- that Commonwealth agencies that own or control places must:
 - prepare a written heritage strategy for managing those places to protect and conserve their Commonwealth Heritage values. The strategy must address any matters required by the EPBC Regulations, and not be inconsistent with the Commonwealth Heritage management principles; and
 - identify Commonwealth Heritage values for each place, and produce a register that sets out the Commonwealth Heritage values (if any) for each place (and do so within the timeframe set out in the place's heritage strategy).

The prescriptions within this plan are consistent with the Commonwealth Heritage and National Heritage management principles and other relevant obligations under the EPBC Act for protecting and conserving the heritage values for which the Reserve has been listed on the National Heritage List.

EPBC Act and Indigenous traditional rights and native title rights

Native title rights can exist in waters over which Australia asserts sovereign rights under the Seas and Submerged Lands Act 1973. Native title determinations need not have been made in order for native title rights to exist. To the extent a Commonwealth reserve may intersect with native title rights and interests, the Commonwealth has no intention of impacting native title rights and interests. If native title parties consider that their native title rights and interests may be affected by the Proclamation of a Commonwealth reserve or the content of a reserve management plan the Commonwealth invites them to make a submission detailing their concerns.

Prohibitions and other provisions of the EPBC Act and EPBC Regulations dealing with activities in Commonwealth reserves do not prevent Indigenous people from continuing their traditional use of an area in a reserve for hunting or gathering (except for purposes of sale), or for ceremonial and religious purposes, in accordance with the EPBC Act s.359A.

The EPBC Act also does not affect the operation of s.211 of the Native Title Act 1993, which in certain circumstances allows native title holders to hunt (and undertake other activities) in the exercise of native title rights without a permit or licence (s.8 EPBC Act).

Penalties

Civil and criminal penalties may be imposed for breaches of the EPBC Act and criminal penalties may be imposed for breaches of the EPBC Regulations.

Other relevant laws

Historic Shipwrecks Act 1976

The *Historic Shipwrecks Act 1976* protects historic wrecks and associated relics, which are more than 75 years old and in Commonwealth waters, extending from below the low water mark to the edge of the continental shelf. The Minister can also make a declaration to protect any historically significant wrecks or articles and relics that are less than 75 years old.

The Act aims to ensure that historic shipwrecks are protected for their heritage values and maintained for recreational, scientific and educational purposes. It also seeks to control actions that may result in damage, interference, removal or destruction of an historic shipwreck or associated relic. Divers can use wreck sites for recreational purposes, but relics must not be removed from the wreck site and the physical fabric of the wreck must not be disturbed, unless a permit has been obtained.

Some historic shipwrecks lie within protected or no-entry zones. These zones may cover an area up to a radius of 800 metres around a wreck site, and may be declared where circumstances place it at particular risk of interference. Permits are required to transit or enter a protected zone for activities such as diving, fishing or commemorative ceremonies. Permits are also required to undertake any activities otherwise prohibited or restricted by the Act.

Environment Protection (Sea Dumping) Act 1981

Australia regulates the loading and dumping of waste at sea under the *Environment Protection (Sea Dumping) Act 1981* (the Sea Dumping Act). This Act also fulfils Australia's international obligations under the London Protocol³ to prevent marine pollution by controlling dumping of wastes and other matter.

Under the Sea Dumping Act, the Commonwealth aims to minimise pollution threats by:

- prohibiting ocean disposal of waste considered too harmful to be released in the marine environment; and
- regulating permitted waste disposal to ensure environmental impacts are minimised.

The Sea Dumping Act applies to all vessels, aircraft and platforms in Australian waters and to all Australian vessels and aircrafts in any part of the sea.

Permits are required for all sea dumping operations. Permits are most commonly issued for dredging operations and the creation of artificial reefs. Permits have also been issued for the dumping of vessels, platforms or other man-made structures, and for burials at sea.

International agreements

This management plan takes into account Australia's obligations under international agreements that are relevant to the South-west Marine Reserves Network.

United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)

The convention, which was agreed in 1982 and came into force for Australia in 1994, provides a framework to regulate many aspects of the uses of the sea and conservation of the marine environment. UNCLOS includes the right of innocent passage of foreign ships through the territorial sea, and of freedom of navigation through Australia's exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

UNCLOS requires foreign ships in territorial seas to comply with the relevant country's laws relating to certain matters, including conservation of the living resources of the sea; prevention of infringement of the fisheries laws; preservation of the environment and the prevention, reduction and control of pollution of the environment; and marine scientific research and hydrographical surveys.

Within Australia's EEZ, foreign ships have rights closely associated with their rights on the high seas, including the freedom of navigation.

International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL)

MARPOL deals with preventing and minimising ship-generated pollution from being discharged into the sea. MARPOL is given effect in Australia by the Commonwealth *Protection of the Sea (Prevention of Pollution from Ships) Act 1983* and the *Navigation Act 1912*. It is the basis for Australian and state government regulation of pollution from all ships, including fishing vessels, in Australian waters. The International Maritime Organisation, a specialised agency of the United Nations, administers this convention and related conventions.

³ <http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/other/dfat/treaties/2006/11.html>

The Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, London 1972 (the London Convention 1972) and 1996 Protocol

Australia is a signatory to the London Convention 1972, the objective of which is to control all sources of marine pollution and prevent pollution through the regulation of waste dumping into the sea. In Australia, the deliberate loading, dumping and incineration of waste at sea is regulated by the *Environment Protection (Sea Dumping) Act 1981*.

UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

On 3 April 2009 the Australian Government announced its support for the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Although the Declaration is non-binding and does not affect existing Australian law, it does set important international principles for nations to aspire to, and many of its provisions are grounded in the core human rights treaties to which Australia is a party.

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Australia is a signatory to the CBD, which requires parties to pursue the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources. Article 8 of the convention identifies that parties should 'establish a system of protected areas or areas where special measures need to be taken to conserve biodiversity'. The establishment and management of the South-west Marine Reserves Network assists Australia in meeting its obligations under the CBD.

In 2010, the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted a 'Strategic Plan for Biodiversity'. It includes the following target relevant to protected areas:

Target 11

By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.

The strategic plan complements, but does not replace, the commitment to establish representative networks of marine protected areas by 2012, made at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development. The strategic plan commitment acknowledges the unfortunately slow progress towards the 2012 target. The Australian Government has met and exceeded this target.

World Heritage Convention

Australia is a party to the World Heritage Convention, which aims to promote cooperation among nations to protect heritage that is of such outstanding universal value that its conservation is important for current and future generations. The operational guidelines for implementing the World Heritage Convention include requirements that each World Heritage area should have a Management Plan and should have adequate long-term legislative protection.

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CSM or Bonn Convention)

As a party to the Bonn Convention, Australia has agreed to protect migratory species and to negotiate and implement agreements for the conservation and management of migratory species with other range states, including cooperation and support of research relating to migratory species:

- The agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of Japan for the Protection of Migratory Birds in Danger of Extinction and their Environment 1974 (JAMBA).
- The agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the People's Republic of China for the Protection of Migratory Birds in Danger of Extinction and their Environment 1986 (CAMBA).
- The agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Republic of Korea for the Protection of Migratory Birds 2007 (ROKAMBA).

International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling

Australia has obligations as a member of the International Whaling Commission and as a signatory to the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling. Some of these obligations include providing for the conservation of whale species through the complete protection of certain species and designation of whale sanctuaries, and through promoting relevant research. All Commonwealth waters are assigned as the Australian Whale Sanctuary.

Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP)

This agreement provides for parties to conserve highly migratory and threatened seabirds over their normal range by protecting critical habitat, controlling non-native species detrimental to albatrosses and petrels, introducing measures to reduce the incidental catch of seabirds in fisheries, and supporting research into the effective conservation of albatrosses and petrels.

GLOSSARY

Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA)	Australian Government agency responsible for the management and sustainable use of Commonwealth fish resources on behalf of the Australian community.
Australian Government	The Government of the Commonwealth of Australia.
biodiversity	According to the EPBC Act, the variability among living organisms from all sources (including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part) and includes: (a) diversity within species and between species; and (b) diversity of ecosystems.
bioregion	A large area that has similar types of plants, animals and ocean conditions compared with other similarly sized areas, and, in this document, those bioregions as defined in the <i>Integrated Marine and Coastal Regionalisation of Australia Version 4.0</i> .
Commonwealth area	Has the meaning given by s.525 of the EPBC Act.
Commonwealth reserve	A reserve established and managed under Division 4 of Part 15 of the EPBC Act.
controlled action	Has the meaning given by s.67 of the EPBC Act.
department	The Australian Government Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (DSEWPaC), including any agency that succeeds to the functions of the department.
Director	The Director of National Parks under s.514A of the EPBC Act, and includes any person to whom the Director has delegated powers and functions under the EPBC Act in relation to the South-west Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network.
endemic	Native to or confined to a certain region.
<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (EPBC Act)	The Australian Government's key environmental Act, which came into effect on 16 July 2000, and includes any Act amending, repealing or replacing the Act.
<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000</i> (EPBC Regulations)	The Australian Government's key environmental regulations, which came into effect on 16 July 2000, and includes any Regulations amending, repealing or replacing the Regulations.
gazette	The <i>Commonwealth of Australia Gazette</i> .

Integrated Marine and Coastal Regionalisation of Australia (IMCRA or IMCRA v4.0)	A spatial framework for classifying Australia's marine environment into bioregions that form the basis for the development of a National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas.
International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)	A democratic membership union with more than 1000 government and non-government organisation member organisations, and almost 11 000 volunteer scientists in more than 160 countries that brings governments, non-government organisations, United Nations agencies, companies and local communities together to develop and implement policy, laws and best-practice environmental management and sustainable development.
management plan	This draft management plan unless otherwise stated.
management principles	The Australian IUCN reserve management principles set out in Schedule 8 of the EPBC Regulations.
mining operations	Mining operations as defined by s.355(2) of the EPBC Act.
minister	The minister administering the EPBC Act.
National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas (NRSMPA)	A comprehensive, adequate and representative system of marine protected areas that contribute to the long-term ecological viability of marine and estuarine systems, maintain ecological processes and systems, and protect Australia's biological diversity at all levels.
proclamation	A proclamation by the Governor-General that is registered on the Federal Register of Legislative Instruments
South-west Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network (South-west Marine Reserves Network or the marine reserves network)	Fourteen Commonwealth marine reserves managed as a network that contain representative examples of the major sea-floor features of the South-west Marine Region:
stowed and secured	All fishing equipment, including nets and lines, are not in contact with the water, are onboard the nominated vessel, and lines are unrigged, unless otherwise determined by the Director.
transit	Passage of a vessel through a reserve without any other activity occurring in the reserve, whereby the transit is in a straight direction and the vessel does not stop for any reason other than a notified emergency.
unrigged	All tackle must be removed, leaving only a bare line on the reel.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

ANZECC (Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council) (1998), *Guidelines for establishing the National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas*, ANZECC Task Force on Marine Protected Areas, Canberra.

ANZECC (Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council) (1999), *Strategic plan of action for the National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas: a guide for action for Australian Governments*, ANZECC Task Force on Marine Protected Areas, Canberra.

Commonwealth of Australia (1999), *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, Environment Australia, Canberra.

Commonwealth of Australia (2000), *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000*, Environment Australia, Canberra.

Commonwealth of Australia (2012), *Marine Bioregional Plan for the South-west Marine Region*, Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, Canberra.

Commonwealth of Australia (2007), *The South-west Marine Bioregional Plan: Bioregional Profile*, Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, Canberra.

Day J., Dudley N., Hockings M., Holmes G., Laffoley D., Stolton S. & S. Wells (2012), *Guidelines for applying the IUCN Protected Area Management Categories to Marine Protected Areas*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 36pp.

Interim Marine and Coastal Regionalisation for Australia Technical Group (2006), *A guide to the integrated marine and coastal regionalisation of Australia, IMCRA version 4.0*, Environment Australia, Canberra.