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Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

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Fishing for the Future

Shark Bay is one of Western Australia's prime angling locations. In recent years recreational fishing pressure in Shark Bay has increased considerably, and in some areas overfishing may be occurring. State bag and size limits apply to all species at Shark Bay. In addition, fish must be left whole while at sea. The only exception is mackerel, which may be filleted, provided that the skin is left on.

Marine mammals have difficulty in detecting fishing line. Fishermen must be careful when line fishing, netting and setting crab nets around marine life. A fishing licence is required to net or take rock lobster. Fishing is not permitted from the Monkey Mia jetty.

A pearl farming lease north-west of Monkey Mia is marked by buoys. If you intend to travel through the lease get permission before leaving the shore.

A complete guide to fishing rules is available from the Fisheries Department or CALM.



Offshore Care

Turtles and dolphins can mistake plastic bags for jellyfish and squid and swallow them for food. This can result in a slow and agonising death. Marine animals and birds can also get tangled in discarded fishing line and nets. Bring your rubbish back to the shore and place it in the bins provided.



Inshore Courtesy

Obey the speed restrictions around Monkey Mia and Denham and keep noise to a minimum. Skiing and jet skis are not allowed because of the danger to dolphins. Boat owners are asked to keep well clear of the dolphin viewing area west of the jetty.



Marine Research

Research boats often follow and observe marine life. Please do not disturb the research by approaching the vessel or animals. Dolphins are likely to alter their behaviour because of your presence and this disrupts the research being undertaken.



Safety First

Before venturing into Shark Bay check the TV or radio weather forecast, contact the Bureau of Meteorology, or listen at 0517 or 0717 on HF Marine Radio frequencies or Channel 16 VHF.

Marine and Harbours regulations require that all boats carry flares as well as a life jacket for everyone aboard. Boats should carry a HF or UHF radio, marine charts and tide tables.

Your boat should be seaworthy.

Inform someone, like the ranger at the Dolphin Information Centre or the Police, of your plans for the day. This should include departure time, destination, how many people on board and estimated return time.



Refuelling

Fill your boat's fuel tanks in the trailer carpark, not on the boat launching ramp.

Fuel spills are a threat to Shark Bay's marine environment and should be reported immediately to the rangers at the Dolphin Information Centre. Fuel spills in Denham should be reported to one of the local government agencies.



Further Information

Further information and assistance can be obtained from:

Department of Fisheries
53 Knight Terrace
DENHAM
(099) 48 1210

Police Department
Hughes Street
DENHAM
(099) 48 1201

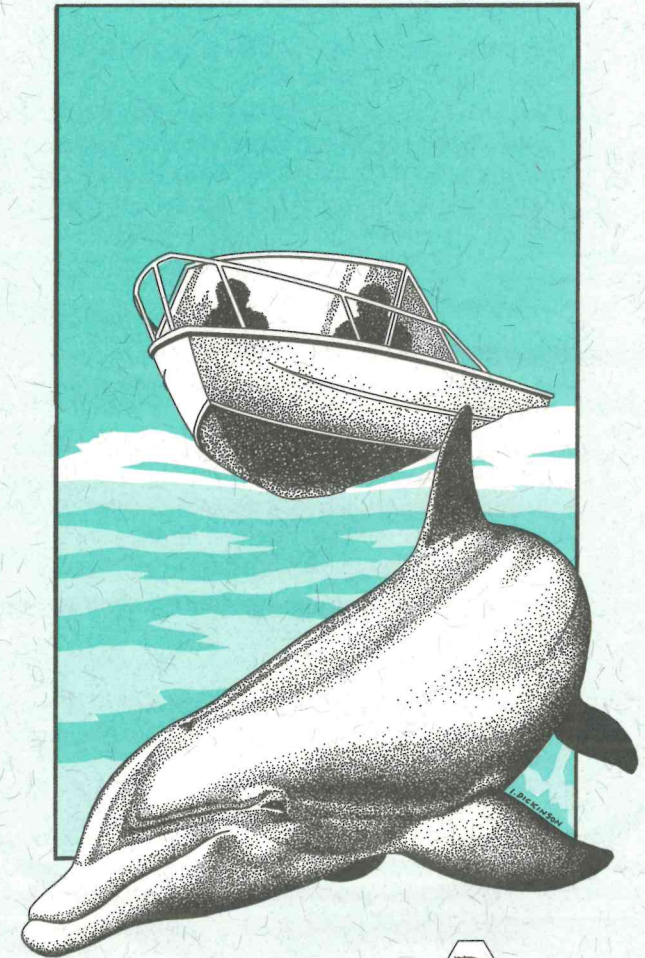
Dolphin Information Centre
Monkey Mia
(099) 481 366

Department of Conservation
and Land Management
58 Knight Terrace
DENHAM
(099) 48 1208
A/H (099) 48 1076

Department of Marine and
Harbours
Knight Terrace
DENHAM
(099) 48 1376
0977 1092 20M

BOATING

in Shark Bay



Department of CALM



Department of Fisheries

WORLD HERITAGE

Welcome to Shark Bay, one of the unique and most unspoiled marine environments in the world.

The bay is home not only to the tame dolphins at Monkey Mia but also to hundreds of other dolphins, several species of turtles, a large herd of dugongs, and many fish, rays, sharks and other marine creatures.

To preserve Shark Bay and to make it a great place to enjoy, we need your cooperation.

If you plan to go boating in Shark Bay, particularly around Monkey Mia, follow the guidelines outlined in this brochure and the values that attracted you here this time will still be here to be enjoyed on your next visit.



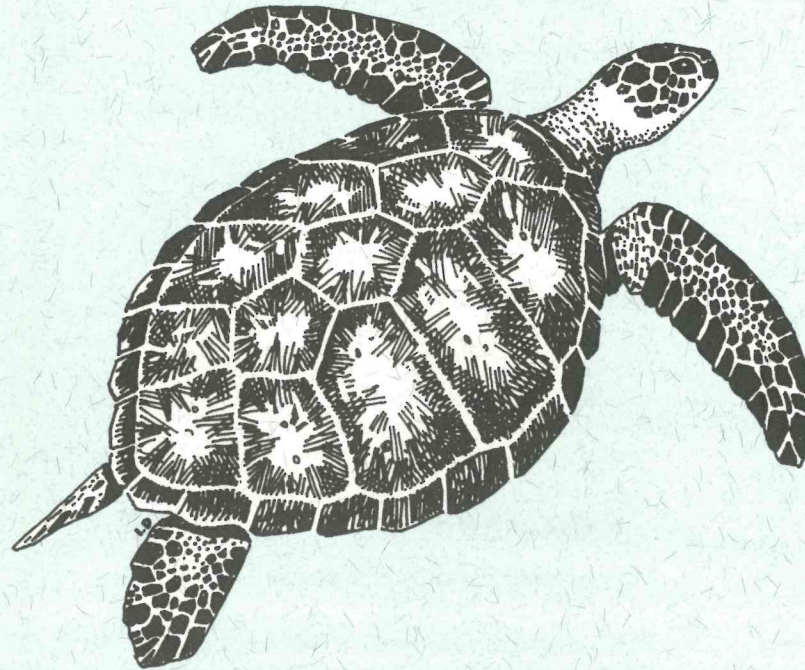
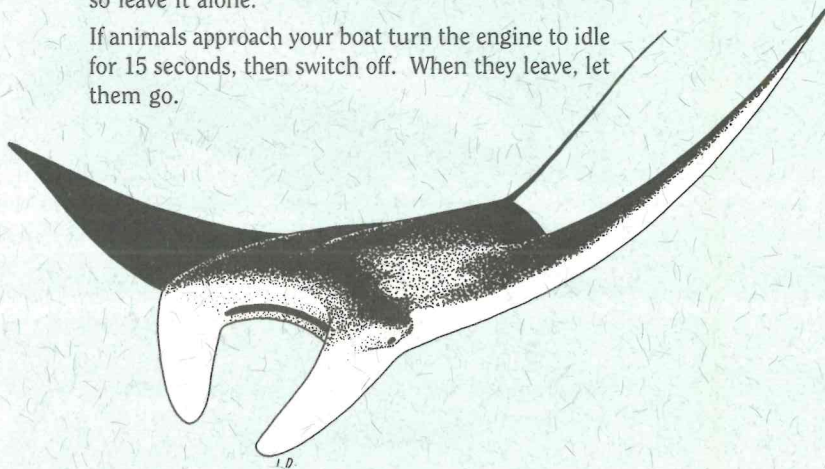
Marine Watch

Marine mammals are protected by law, but the laws don't stop you from watching these fascinating mammals.

Approach marine animals like dugongs and turtles with care, either parallel or slightly to the rear at a constant slow speed, and at a distance of about 50 metres. Marine animals may feel threatened if approached head on or from behind.

If you need to continually change speed or direction to watch an animal, it is probably trying to avoid you, so leave it alone.

If animals approach your boat turn the engine to idle for 15 seconds, then switch off. When they leave, let them go.



Dolphin Encounter

Dolphins often ride in a boat's wake. When this happens maintain a constant speed and direction until the dolphins are well away from your boat and can't be injured by your propellor.

Allow the dolphins to move away from your boat when they are ready to do so, and follow them at a distance of 50 metres.

Be particularly careful around calves. They are curious and vulnerable to propellor injuries.

Dolphins are wild animals that must support themselves in their environment. At Monkey Mia, the dolphins are fed irregularly to maintain contact with the animals and enhance the visitor's experience.

Rangers monitor the quantity of fish the dolphins are fed at Monkey Mia to ensure they do not rely on hand-outs and lose the ability to feed themselves in the wild.

Rangers carefully control the quality of fish by ensuring they are not fed bait, fillets or spoiled fish. Only the few dolphins that visit the Monkey Mia beach accept fish hand-outs.

For dolphin well-being, fishermen should never feed the dolphins from boats. If you want to share your catch with the dolphins the Ranger Station would be more than pleased to receive your fish.

Dolphin feeding from charter boats and the hovercraft is not allowed. If this were to occur, the dolphins would consider these boats as a source of food and could follow them away from the beach.



Seagrass Banks

Shark Bay's seagrass banks provide food and breeding grounds for many marine animals, but they are easily damaged by boat propellers and anchors. Once removed the seagrass does not return readily.

Note the location of seagrass beds on your map and slow down when crossing them. If the tide is low and you cannot cross a bank without dragging your propellor in the weed, turn back and go around the banks.

Dugongs, dolphins and turtles frequent the seagrass banks and they risk being hit by a boat at low tide. So slow down and take care.

