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Conservation and Attractions

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MARMION

MARINE PARK



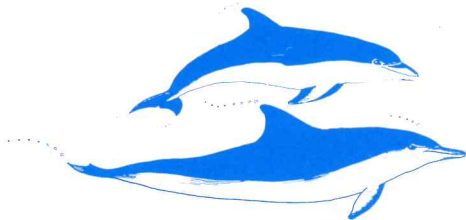
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT W.A.

Marmion Marine Park, W.A.'s first marine park and an area of great natural beauty, has long been a holiday destination for many Western Australians.

The park is on Perth's doorstep, extending along the northern metropolitan coastline from Trigg Island to Burns Rock and about 5 km offshore.

Its clear shallow lagoons, reefs and tiny islands are a playground for marine mammals, like the sea-lions that rest on Little Island, as well as bottlenosed dolphins and humpback whales.

The reef has remarkably diverse and colourful marine flora and fauna and vivid coral formations.



WHY A MARINE PARK?

Marmion Marine Park was established to protect the area's natural beauty, while continuing to provide a recreation area for the people of Perth.

At a time before the suburban spread extended northwards, Western Australians came to fish the offshore reefs at Marmion for large jewfish, groper and crayfish, swim in the protected lagoons, and sunbathe on the beaches. Dozens of beach houses were built along the Whitford Nodes and beach tracks covered the environmentally fragile sand dunes.

But the increasing number of visitors to the area placed pressure on both the offshore and onshore environment and neither they nor the fish stocks could be sustained.

The State Government responded by making this the first Marine Park in Western Australia, to be managed by the Department of Conservation and Land Management for conservation, education, scientific research and fishing.

MARMION NORTH TO SOUTH

Burns Rock to Ocean Reef

The onshore reef is exposed from Burns Rock to just south of Ocean Reef. Although the road ends at Ocean Reef, the adventurous can beachwalk and rock hop north to find a secluded cove.

Ocean Reef Boat Harbour

Here the solid limestone surface of an ancient ocean floor is exposed. As it gradually subsided there was a build-up of marine and river deposits over millions of years.

The Ocean Reef harbour wall gives access to deep water fishing.

Between Ocean Reef boat harbour and Hillary's boat harbour is a long stretch of sandy beach, ideal for swimming and sunbathing.

North Shore

A mini pinnacles is located just before the junction of West Coast Highway and Ocean Reef Road. These limestone stumps formed beneath the dunes where a hard capping of calcrete has protected the softer limestone beneath from subsurface erosion. Wind has moved the dunes and exposed them.

Mullaloo Beach

Stark white, shifting beach sands contrast with the vegetated dunes. Nearby is a grassy picnic area.

Whitford Nodes

A grassed picnic area has been established between the dunes at Whitford Nodes. A dune walk trail links two lookouts and the beach with the boat harbour and picnic areas. The lookouts give excellent views of the Marine Park, particularly the inshore reef and Little Island.

Migrating humpback whales can be seen going north to warmer waters in April and returning south in October.

Terns diving into the sea to feed on schooling fish are a common sight.

The hardy dune plants that hold the sands together and give shelter and food to insects, birds and reptiles, can be seen along the walk trail.

Hillarys Boat Harbour

The harbour and groynes provide designated sheltered swimming areas.

Outside the walls, divers and snorkellers can observe marine wildlife.

A dive trail is proposed for the Boyinaboat Reef which is less than 50m from the south-west wall of the harbour. A sign points out steps leading onto the wall overlooking the reef. Australian sea-lions, which are re-establishing their numbers in the area, rest on Little Island. Please view them from your boat.

Watermans Observation Area:

This is an area set aside as an ecological benchmark where scientists study the onshore reefs and their marine life and compare them with areas to which the public have access.

North Beach Platform

Located south of Watermans Reserve, this platform overlooks the ocean and provides a safe spot for fishing at high tide.

Mettams Pool

An ideal area for dry and wet reef exploration, while the sheltered rock pool is ideal for families and elderly swimmers. A ramp and toilets are available (installed) for the disabled.

Trigg Island

Pied Cormorants and Silver Gulls roost in the limestone outcrops at Trigg Island. Birdwatchers may also see Crested Terns and Fairy Terns.

Bottlenosed dolphins are regular visitors offshore.

Swimming is not recommended at the Blue Hole south of Trigg Island. The rips there are dangerous.

MANAGING THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT

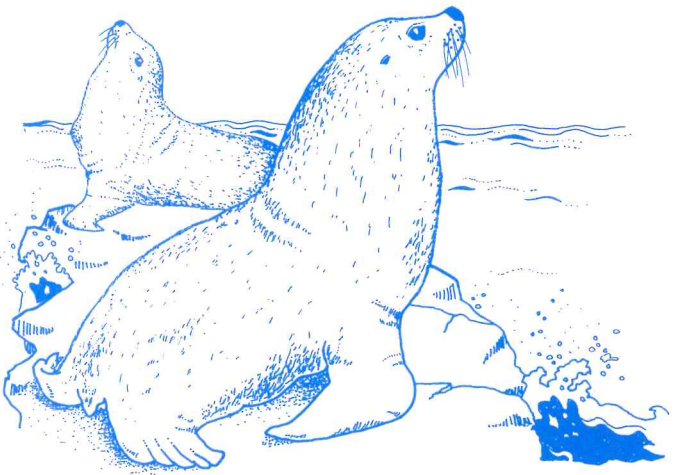
The Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) manages the Marmion Marine Park for the people of Western Australia.

To achieve this, CALM consults other agencies, such as the Cities of Stirling and Wanneroo, which provide public facilities along the coast: the Department of Marine and Harbours, which is responsible for safe boating in the Park; and the Department of Fisheries, which manages both professional and recreational fishing.

CALM is developing a management plan for the Marine Park that will consider both conservation and recreation issues.

As part of its responsibility to protect the biological resources and natural features of the park, the Department is developing a range of recreation activities, including snorkel and dive trails, park tours and educational programs.

A 'Friends of Marmion Marine Park' group promotes activities that enhance the public's awareness, understanding and appreciation of the park.



CARING FOR MARMION

BE CAREFUL: Display the appropriate flag when scuba diving or snorkelling.

BE CLEAN: Place your litter in bins provided or take it out of the park when you leave.

BE CAUTIOUS: Observe and conserve marine wildlife such as seabirds and sea-lions by causing as little disturbance as possible. Dogs are not permitted on Little Island.

BE COURTEOUS: Make sure your activities don't spoil someone else's enjoyment.

COME BACK: Conserve fish numbers by taking only what you will use yourself.



FURTHER INFORMATION

CALM officers regularly patrol the waters and coastline of Marmion Marine Park and will be glad to answer any questions you may have.

Marmion Marine Park Manager
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Hillarys Boat Harbour
HILLARYS 6025
(09) 448 5705

Department of Conservation and Land Management
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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

Indian Ocean

THINGS TO SEE AND DO

The Cities of Stirling and Wanneroo provide many public facilities along the coastline within the Park, such as picnic areas and change rooms near patrolled swimming beaches.

Signs indicate surfing and sailing areas as well as beaches where animals can be exercised.

BOATING

Major public boat launching facilities are available at the Hillary's boat harbour and the Ocean Reef boat harbour.

DIVING

Reef walls and underwater caves lined with marine life are a major attraction to divers and photographers. Please remember that all marine fauna is protected, except that taken for personal consumption, in line with regulations.

Snorkel and dive trails are being developed to direct divers to the more interesting marine communities.

Spearfishing is prohibited 1800 m seaward of the shoreline, and is prohibited for divers using underwater breathing equipment.

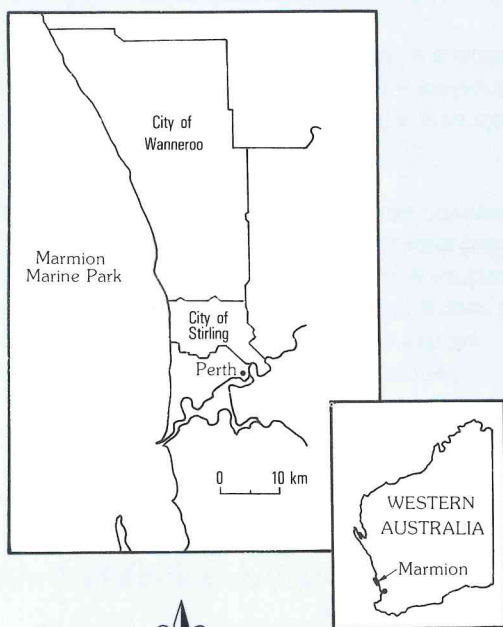
FISHING

Fishing is the most popular activity in the park. Beaches, reefs, and rock walls provide fishermen with excellent vantage points. Except for drop nets for crabs, netting is prohibited in the park.

A marine sanctuary is proposed seaward of Little Island and Burns Rocks to allow the heavily fished reefs a chance to recover.

Watermans observation area is closed except to line fishing.

Department of Fisheries, Marine and Harbours and Historical Shipwreck regulations apply to the Marine Park and are in place for the protection of park users, their property and the environment.



SCALE 0 1 2 km

LEGEND

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Fishing | Ranger's Station |
| Launching Ramp | Skiing |
| Lookout | Snorkelling |
| Patrolled Swimming | Spearfishing Prohibited |
| Picnic Area (Gas B.B.Q.s) | Windsurfing |

- Shallow Reef
- Marmion Marine Park Boundary

THIS MAP IS NOT INTENDED FOR NAVIGATIONAL PURPOSES

