

**MARINE RESERVE IMPLEMENTATION:
CENTRAL FOREST**

**PLANNING AND PRE-DECLARATION PROCESSES
FOR A MARINE PROTECTED AREA IN THE GEOGRAPHE
BAY-CAPES-HARDY INLET REGION**

Mid term Progress Report: MRI/CF/GBC – 43/2000

A collaborative project between CALM Marine Conservation Branch
and the Central Forests Regional Office

A project partially funded through the Natural Heritage Trust's
Coast and Clean Seas Marine Protected Area Programme
Project No: WA9801

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Direction

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- The Department of Conservation and Land Management supports the planning and pre-declaration processes for a marine protected area in the Geographe Bay-Capes-Hardy Inlet region with the provision of technical, logistical and human resources (\$126,000).

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....I

TABLE OF CONTENTS.....II

BACKGROUND.....1

AREA OF INTEREST.....2

PROGRESS AGAINST PROJECT SCOPE ITEMS.....4

EXPENDITURE TO DATE.....5

WORK SCHEDULE.....5

REFERENCES.....6

APPENDICES.....ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.

BACKGROUND

The Geographe Bay-Capes-Hardy Inlet area was recommended in the *Report of the Marine Parks and Reserves Selection Working Group* (CALM, 1994) as worthy of consideration for reservation.

The *Conservation and Land Management (CALM) Act* allows for the establishment of multiple-use marine conservation reserves for the purposes of conservation of marine flora and fauna and public recreation. Commercial activities, such as fishing, aquaculture and petroleum exploration and production, are also acceptable within specific zones of multiple-use marine conservation reserves. The Western Australian Fisheries Department manages commercial and recreational fisheries in marine conservation reserves.

The *CALM Act* specifies the statutory process for the reservation of marine conservation reserves, including a public planning process for the development of management zoning schemes that allow for the spatial separation of incompatible activities in a marine park. In anticipation of this process the major marine resources and current uses of a number of the areas recommended for reservation in the Marine Parks and Reserves Selection Working Group report, are being identified. As part of the statutory marine conservation reserve pre-declaration process, it is required that the biological, economic, social and cultural resources of a proposed marine conservation reserve be assessed before the Notice Of Intent (NOI) is issued. This process has been designed improve the community's awareness of the issues concerned with the creation of a marine conservation reserve prior the release of the NOI. The data layers provide the basic information for a consultative process resulting in the determination of preliminary boundaries and zonings, so that current users have a clear appreciation of how the proposed marine reserve will affect their current and future activities.

In December 1997, the Western Australian Government, following advice provided by the Western Australian Marine Parks and Reserves Authority, announced that the Geographe Bay-Capes-Hardy Inlet region as priority areas for the establishment of marine conservation reserves under the *CALM Act*. Designation of the waters of the Geographe Bay-Capes-Hardy Inlet region as a marine conservation reserve was also recommended in the Leeuwin-Naturaliste Ridge: Statement of planning policy report (WAPC, 1997).

Currently, there is no other marine conservation reserve in the "Leeuwin-Naturaliste" Interim Marine and Coastal Regionalisation for Australia bioregion (IMCRA, 1998).

The Marine Conservation Branch (MCB) of the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) is conducting this project as part of the Marine Reserve Implementation programme, and is being conducted in collaboration with CALM's Central Forests Region, South West Capes District in Busselton.

The aims of the project are:

1. to initiate planning and pre-declaration processes for the proposed Geographe Bay-Capes-Hardy Inlet marine conservation reserve;
2. to compile the ecological and socio-economic information;
3. to provide advice to the WA Government, through the stakeholder/community advisory committee process, on the suitable reserve category, boundaries and management zoning options, and;
4. to develop and implement a community consultation process.

This report details progress achieved on Project No WA9801 “Planning and pre-declaration process for a Marine Protected Area in the Geographe Bay-Capes-Hardy Inlet region” up to July 2000.

AREA OF INTEREST

The area of interest (Figure 1) referred to as the Geographe Bay-Capes-Hardy Inlet region, falls in the Leeuwin-Naturaliste IMCRA bioregion. This area is covered by AUSLIG Topographic Series 1:250,000 SI50-5 Busselton and SI50-9 Augusta, and by AUSLIG Topographic Series 1:100,000 1929 Leeuwin and 1930 Busselton.

The following latitudes and longitudes cover the extent of the area of interest.

Bearing	Latitude	Longitude
North	33° 28' 48" S	115° 00' 00" E
North west	33° 40' 12" S	114° 55' 12" E
West	33° 58' 12" S	114° 54' 36" E
South west	34° 22' 12" S	115° 00' 00" E
South	34° 28' 12" S	115° 12' 36" E
South east	34° 18' 36" S	115° 15' 00" E
East	34° 00' 36" S	115° 00' 00" E
North east	33° 36' 12" S	115° 15' 00" E

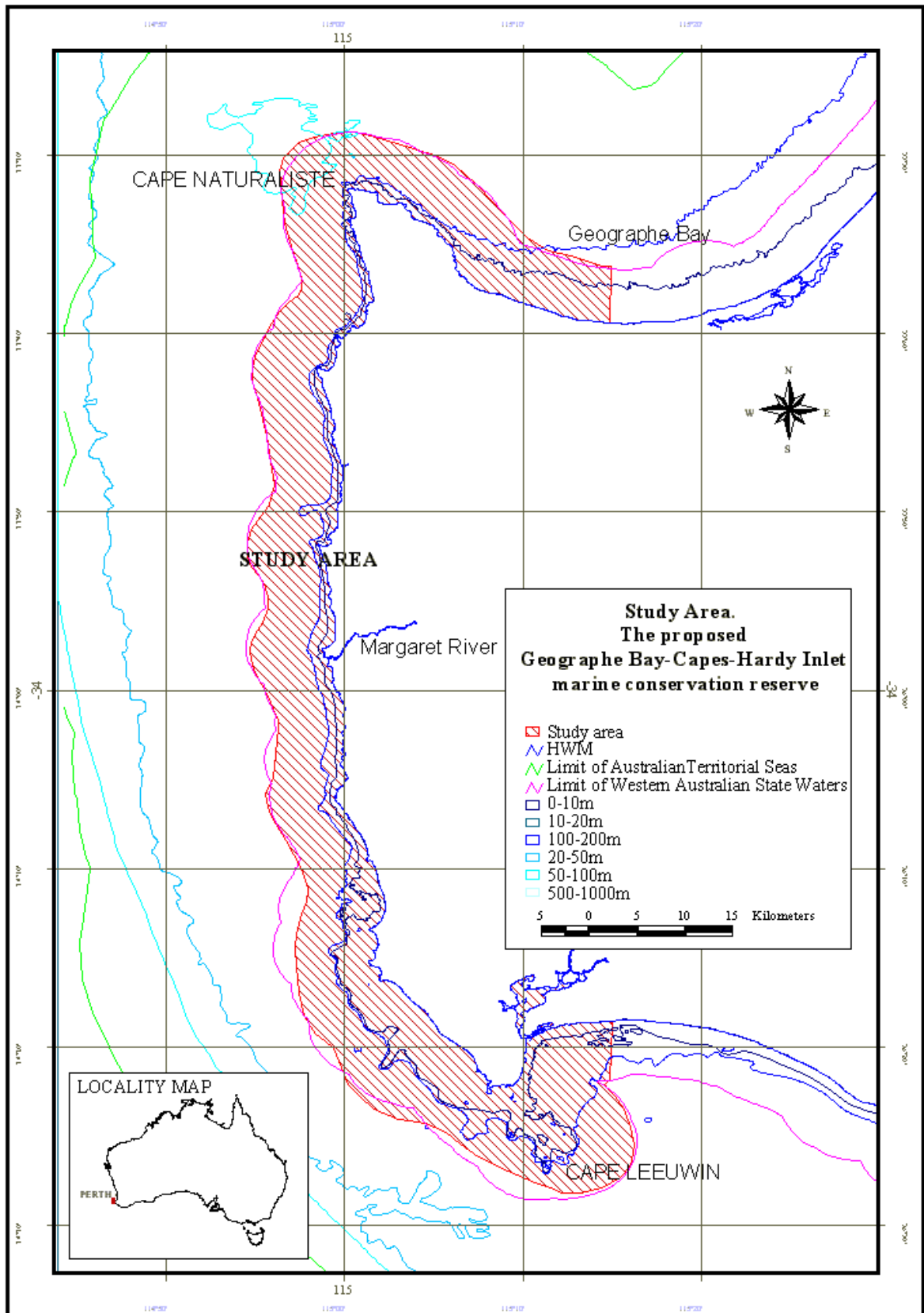


Figure 1. Study area. The proposed Geographe Bay-Capes-Hardy Inlet marine conservation reserve

PROGRESS AGAINST PROJECT SCOPE ITEMS

The progress against the scope items is as below.

Task	% Achieved	Details	Information attached
1. Review and collation of existing information layers and acquisition of additional layers.	100%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Literature review is complete. 	
	40%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data from appropriate government departments and agencies have been requested. 	
	30%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary resource assessment of the region is underway. 	
	100%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oceanography summary has been completed. 	
2. Preparation of advisory committee information package	10%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some literature required for the regional perspectives paper has been acquired or requested. 	
	100%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procedural guidelines for Western Australian marine reserve planning and management legislation. 	
	50%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relevant biological, economic and social information layers has been requested from appropriate government departments and agencies. 	
3. Implementation of the statutory community/ stakeholder advisory committee	5%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary planning begun. 	
4. Implementation of community consultation programme	15%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary contacts have been made: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Briefed the Shire of Busselton and the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River. Provide interpretive materials at the "Margaret River Surf Classic" a major international surfing competition. Talks to local recreation and conservation groups 	
	0%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interpretive posters to be designed and produced. 	
	0%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interpretive brochures to be designed and produced. 	

EXPENDITURE TO DATE

Item	Funding	Expenditure	Balance
NHT funds received 1998/99	\$25,600		\$25,600
Expenditure 1998/99		\$1,000	\$24,600
Funds on progress report (Oct 1999)	\$25,600		\$50,200
Expenditure 1999/2000		\$15,000	\$35,200
Residual expenditure 2000/2001		\$48,000	(\$12,800)
Funds on final report 2000/2001	\$12,800		\$0
Totals	\$64,000	\$64,000	\$0

WORK SCHEDULE

NHT funds were not received until late February 1999, which resulted in a four month delay in initialising this project. Some preliminary acquisitions, research, and consultation have been performed, however further effort in the Geographe Bay-Capes-Hardy Inlet region was temporarily suspended due to commitments in the Dampier Archipelago/Cape Preston and the Montebello/Barrow islands proposed marine conservation reserves. This was reflected in a variation to the contract agreement on the 20 Jan 2000. CALM is now accelerating the implementation of this project with the recent appointment of a dedicated officer in July 2000. It is anticipated that Geographe Bay-Capes advisory committee will be formed in 2001.

Tasks	Sep 99	Oct 99	Nov 99	Dec 99	Jan 00	Feb 00	Mar 00	Apr 00	Ma 00	Jun 00	July 00	Aug 00	Sep 00	Oct 00	Nov 00	Dec 00	Jan 01
Review and collation of existing information layers and acquisition of additional data	➤	➤	➤	➤	➤	➤	➤	➤	➤	➤	➤	➤	➤	➤			
	●	●	●	●	●	●											
Preparation of an information package, comprising regional and biological perspectives papers; relevant information layers in GIS format and procedural guidelines	➤	➤	➤	➤	➤	➤	➤	➤	➤	➤	➤	➤	➤	➤			
	●	●	●	●	●	●											
Mid term Progress Report											➤						
										●							
Implementation of statutory community advisory committee process																	➤
														●	●	●	●
Implementation of a community consultation programme									➤	➤	➤	➤	➤	➤	➤	➤	➤
									●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Prepare final draft for comment and submit final report																	●

● Work plan as per contract agreement

➤ Predicted Work plan

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- Bancroft, K.P. (1999). Resource assessment of the Montebello/Barrow islands and the Dampier Archipelago/Cape Preston regions: 14-25 June 1999. Marine Reserve Implementation Field Programme Report MRI/PI/MBI & DA – 20/1999. Unpublished report.
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