

DATA REPORT

Bibliography of marine ecological literature relevant to the Pilbara and Eighty Mile Beach region

**A contribution to the resource assessment for proposed marine parks and
reserves in the Pilbara and Eighty Mile Beach region**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the objectives, methods and data management for the development of a bibliographic database of marine ecological literature relevant to study areas within the Pilbara and Eighty Mile Beach (PEMB) regions of Western Australia. The development of this database contributes to the State Government's project of expanding Western Australia's system of marine parks and reserves in the PEMB regions.

The Marine Policy and Planning Branch (MPPB) of the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) is coordinating this project in collaboration with DEC's Pilbara Region and West Kimberley District.

The MPPB has initiated a rapid *resource assessment* for the PEMB regions to provide biophysical and socioeconomic information and spatial data for the marine parks and reserves planning process. Current knowledge of the marine environment for initial stages of marine parks and reserves planning is primarily derived from published literature. As such, one component of the resource assessment is the development of a bibliographic database of published literature on the ecological values of the area. As well as the bibliographic database and report (this report), the project has also included the opportunistic collation of digital or hard copies of important references for review at a later stage in the planning process.

The bibliography includes a total of 681 entries of reports, journal articles and other literature. The database is fully searchable and compatible with other databases and it includes links to digital copies of the literature (where possible). While many other literature are available for the Pilbara and Eighty Mile Beach regions, the database and literature included are relevant to marine parks and reserves planning in the study areas, providing a focus from the vast amount of literature available.

This report and corresponding bibliographic database and collated literature is an important resource for marine parks and reserves planners in the early phase of the planning process as it provides rapid access to consolidated published information for the area and relevant sources of data and information.

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1 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the objectives, methods and data management for the development of a bibliographic database of marine ecological literature relevant to study areas within the Pilbara and Eighty Mile Beach (PEMB) regions of Western Australia. The development of this database contributes to the State Government's project of expanding Western Australia's system of marine parks and reserves in the PEMB regions.

The Marine Policy and Planning Branch (MPPB) of the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) is coordinating this project in collaboration with DEC's Pilbara Region and West Kimberley District.

1.1 BACKGROUND

The Government of Western Australia is committed to conserving and managing the State's marine environment for current and future generations. A major component of this commitment is the establishment of a network of comprehensive, adequate and representative marine parks and reserves which aim to protect representative and special marine ecosystems and processes, and to ensure that human uses of the marine environment are managed in an equitable, integrated and sustainable way (Government of Western Australia, 1998). The Western Australian marine parks and reserves system contributes to the National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas which is a key strategy to preserve Australia's marine biodiversity and assists in meeting obligations under several international conventions and agreements (ANZECC, 1998).

Several areas in the Pilbara and lower west Kimberley region were identified as priority areas for reservation by the Marine Parks and Reserves Selection Working Group (MPRSWG) which was tasked with identifying candidate areas for marine reservation. The MPRSWG report was released in 1994.

In addition to these areas being highlighted as a priority for reservation by the MPRSWG, on 12 December 2006, the State Government announced its commitment to the rapid expansion of the terrestrial and marine parks and reserves system in the PEMB regions. These new marine parks and reserves are intended to improve protection for marine biodiversity and provide additional protection for marine turtles (in particular flatback turtles) to the maximum extent possible. This decision was part of the consideration of environmental mitigation and offset measures associated with the proposed Gorgon Gas Development on Barrow Island.

Before new marine parks and reserves can be established there is a requirement for:

"Extensive assessment, community consultation and management planning ..."
An essential component of this is:

"A comprehensive assessment of the area's biological and economic resources, and social values is carried out." (Western Australian Government, 1998)

In view of the high conservation value of the priority areas identified in the PEMB regions by the MPRSWG and the Cabinet decision of 2006, DEC has undertaken a rapid resource assessment of the ecological and socio-economic information and spatial data for the PEMB regions. The resource assessment will provide the necessary information for planning the marine parks and reserves. Current knowledge of the marine environment for initial stages of marine parks and reserves planning is primarily derived from published literature. As such,

one component of the resource assessment is the development of a bibliographic database of published literature on the ecological values of the area.

1.2 OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of this component of the project is to contribute to the resource assessment for the PEMB regions by:

1. production of a bibliographic database of marine ecological and social literature relevant to the PEMB regions;
2. documentation of the references in a bibliography (this report); and
3. opportunistic collation of digital or hard copies of important references (where available and time permitting) for review.

This report and corresponding database contributes to the resource assessment by providing rapid access to consolidated published information for the area and relevant source of data/information.

1.3 STUDY AREA

The study area for the literature search and resultant bibliography extends from west of Ashburton River, to the northern most point of Eighty Mile Beach and seaward to the limit of State waters (Figure 1).

The Government identified several broad areas as priority areas for further assessment and/or reservation in this region. Study areas include Eighty Mile Beach, Cape Keraudren to Spit Point (including offshore islands), Cape Thouin to Cape Lambert, waters of the Great Sandy Island Nature Reserve and Robe mangal, Ashburton River area and the Serrurier Island complex. These areas were targeted in the literature search, however literature relevant to other areas within the region have been included where appropriate.

Marine parks and reserves planning will consider the ecological and social values of the entire PEMB regions which comprises three bioregions: Pilbara Nearshore, Pilbara Offshore and Eighty Mile Beach (IMCRA,1998).

2 METHODS

2.1 LITERATURE SEARCH

A desk-top literature search was conducted by manually searching various databases, library catalogues and websites for useful references. The bibliographic software EndNote 8 (Thomson ISI ResearchSoft) was used to search available online databases and catalogues. Other databases and catalogues not available through EndNote 8 were searched via the internet. Information sources and keyword search limits are outlined in Table 1. In addition, bibliographies and reference pages of important literature were visually searched for other important references.

Table 1: Keyword searches applied to various databases, catalogues and websites for compilation of the bibliographic database

Database/Catalogue/Website	Keyword Search	Spatial Limits
Journal databases (<i>Academic Search Premier, Environment Complete</i>)	Marine habitat/flora/fauna, geology/geomorphology, oceanography, mangrove/mangal, seagrass, turtle, dugong, whale, fish Pilbara, Eighty Mile Beach, Cape Keraudren, Bedout Island, North Turtle Island, Little Turtle Island, Depuch, Cowrie Beach, Mundabullangana, Cape Lambert, Cape Preston, Robe River, Fortescue River, Ashburton River, Serrurier Island, Great Sandy Island	Western Australia AND Pilbara OR North
Library catalogues (<i>University of Western Australia, Murdoch University, Curtin University, Edith Cowan University, State Library of WA, CSIRO Online Library</i>)	Marine habitat/flora/fauna, mangrove/mangal, seagrass, turtle, dugong, whale, fish Pilbara, Eighty Mile Beach, Cape Keraudren, Bedout Island, North Turtle Island, Little Turtle Island, Depuch, Cowrie Beach, Mundabullangana, Cape Lambert, Cape Preston, Robe River, Fortescue River, Ashburton River, Serrurier Island, Great Sandy Island	Pilbara OR North None
State and Federal Government department websites (<i>Dept. of Fisheries, Dept. for Planning & Infrastructure, Dept. of Industry & Resources, Tourism WA, Western Australian Museum, Dept. of Local Government & Regional Development, local councils & Development Commissions, Department of Environment & Heritage- fed</i>)	As above.	As above

DEC libraries and databases (<i>Science Library-CONSLib, Marine Conservation Branch/Marine Science Program Library, Canning Coast reference database</i>)	As above.	As above.
Other databases (<i>Murdoch University Dampier Research Database, CSIRO/DEP/AIMS North West Shelf Joint Environmental Management Study Database, Australian Nature Conservation Agency Directory of Important Wetlands Online, OZEstuaries Online, Australian Wetlands Database, Commonwealth NW Bioregional planning database</i>).	As above.	As above.

2.2 DATABASE DEVELOPMENT AND ASSESSMENT OF RELEVANT LITERATURE

A database was developed in EndNote 8 and references were identified through the literature search outlined in Section 2.1. References details were downloaded or entered into the EndNote database where it was clear that they would be of relevance to marine parks and reserve planning in the PEMB regions. Literature was included if it satisfied the keyword search and was assessed as being useful for understanding the ecological environment of the PEMB region. Literature was not included in the database if it was not within the study area (unless it was of key relevance to the study areas), keyword search limits and/or where it was difficult to ascertain the location or relevance of the literature.

While every effort has been made to create a complete database of relevant literature to the PEMB regions for marine parks and reserves planning, the scope of the bibliography is limited to those items that could be identified by the keyword searches outlined in Section 2.1. For example, although the keyword search limits included words such as 'Pilbara', 'North', 'Western Australia', 'marine' and the study area locations, the search did not specifically include keywords such as, Dampier Archipelago, and Montebello/Barrow islands. The reason for this is that these areas are not the focus of conservation planning in the region and as such specific keywords were not included. However, where literature was found pertaining to these area it was included in the database as it may be of relevance to the broader PEMB area.

References downloaded from databases, libraries and catalogues often had pre-existing keywords, call numbers, URL directories and abstracts. These were included in the database to allow for future reference (e.g. these additional details may make it easier to retrieve a copy of the literature in the future). Relevant keywords were also assigned where the existing keywords were not complete.

All entries were checked to ensure the details were entered correctly into the database. Some entries were incomplete or lacked basic reference details. These have been separated in the database using the keyword 'unconfirmed'.

In addition, where possible digital or hard copies of important literature were obtained by either downloading from websites or sourced through DEC's libraries or directly through the author. A link to the digital copy was inserted in the database.

3 RESULTS AND DATA MANAGEMENT

The bibliography includes a total of 681 entries of reports, journal articles and other literature of relevance to the ecological values of the PEMB region. The database is fully searchable and compatible with other databases and it includes links to digital copies of the literature (where possible).

To enable broader access to the results of this project the database has been exported to a bibliography in Appendix I of this report. See Section 3.1 for more information on storage and archival of this report. Some entries were incomplete or lacked basic reference details and these have been separated in the database using the keyword 'unconfirmed' and are listed separately in the bibliography in Appendix II.

As outlined in Section 2.2, while every effort has been made to create a complete database of relevant literature to the PEMB regions for marine parks and reserves planning, the scope of the bibliography is limited to that literature that could be identified by the keyword searches outlined in Section 2.1. This is both a negative and positive outcome of the database. On the positive, it provides a focus for the bibliography on particularly relevant literature from the vast amount of literature available in the region, however on the negative, there is a risk that important literature was overlooked due to the limiting nature of the keywords.

Overall, the bibliography will provide rapid access to consolidated published information for the study area and relevant source of data and information for further revision at a later stage in the resource assessment and planning process.

3.1 STORAGE AND ARCHIVAL

Hard copies of this data report will be held at DEC's:

1. Marine Policy & Planning Branch, Suite 3, Level 3 Queensgate Building, 10 William St. Fremantle, WA 6160. Ph: 9336 0110 Fax: 9450 5408.
2. Karratha Region, Lot 3 Anderson Road, Karratha Industrial Estate, Karratha, WA 6714. Ph: 9182 2000 Fax: 9144 118.
3. West Kimberley District, 111 Herbert St., Broome WA 6725. Ph: 9195 5500 Fax: 9193 5027.
4. Science Library, PO Box 51 Wanneroo WA 6946. Ph: 94055100 Fax: 9306 1641.

Digital copies of this report and the bibliographic database will be held on DEC's Marine Policy and Planning Branch server [*T:\144-Marine Policy and Planning Branch\Shared Data\3-INFORMATION-DATA\Aspatial\Databases\PLWK bibliography*] and on CD-ROM with hard copies of the report at the locations below:

1. Marine Policy and Planning Branch, DEC, Suite 3, Level 3, Queensgate Building, 10 William Street, Fremantle WA 6160 . Ph: 93360100 Fax: 94305408
2. Science Library, PO Box 51 Wanneroo WA 6946. Ph: 94055132 Fax: 93061641

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5 APPENDICIES

APPENDIX I: BIBLIOGRAPHY OF MARINE ECOLOGICAL LITERATURE RELEVANT TO THE PILBARA AND EIGHTY MILE BEACH REGIONS

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APPENDIX II: UNCONFIRMED REFERENCES

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