



# The Marine 'Program' in DCLM



A Marine Conservation Branch  
Perspective

# WA's MARINE BIODIVERSITY

- Tropical province - north of North West Cape
- Temperate province - east of Cape Leeuwin
- Zone of marine bio-geographic overlap  
- between NW Cape and Cape Leeuwin

# Key Characteristics

- Global marine biodiversity ‘hotspot’
- Downstream of the global centre of marine biodiversity (i.e. so-called ‘coral triangle’)
- Unique poleward current (i.e. Leeuwin Current)
- Nutrient-poor waters
- Tropical areas potentially more vulnerable to global warming
- Generally in very good condition

# History of MPAs in WA

- 1960s: AMSA recommend areas for reservation
- 1970s: EPA recommends areas for reservation in CTRC report
- 1985: CALM established
- 1987-1990: Seven reserves established
- 1994: MPRSWG report released

# History (continued)

- 1994: New Horizons Policy
- 1996: MCB formed
- 1997: Marine reserve provisions of CALM Act amended
- 1997: MPRA and MPRASAC established
- 1997-2002: MPA 'program' - PHASE I

# Role of Marine Conservation Branch

- Establishment of a statewide system of MPAs
- Strategic direction and support to Regions in relation to marine conservation
- Policy advice to CALM Corporate Executive
- Assist the MPRA and MPRSAC

## Role (continued)

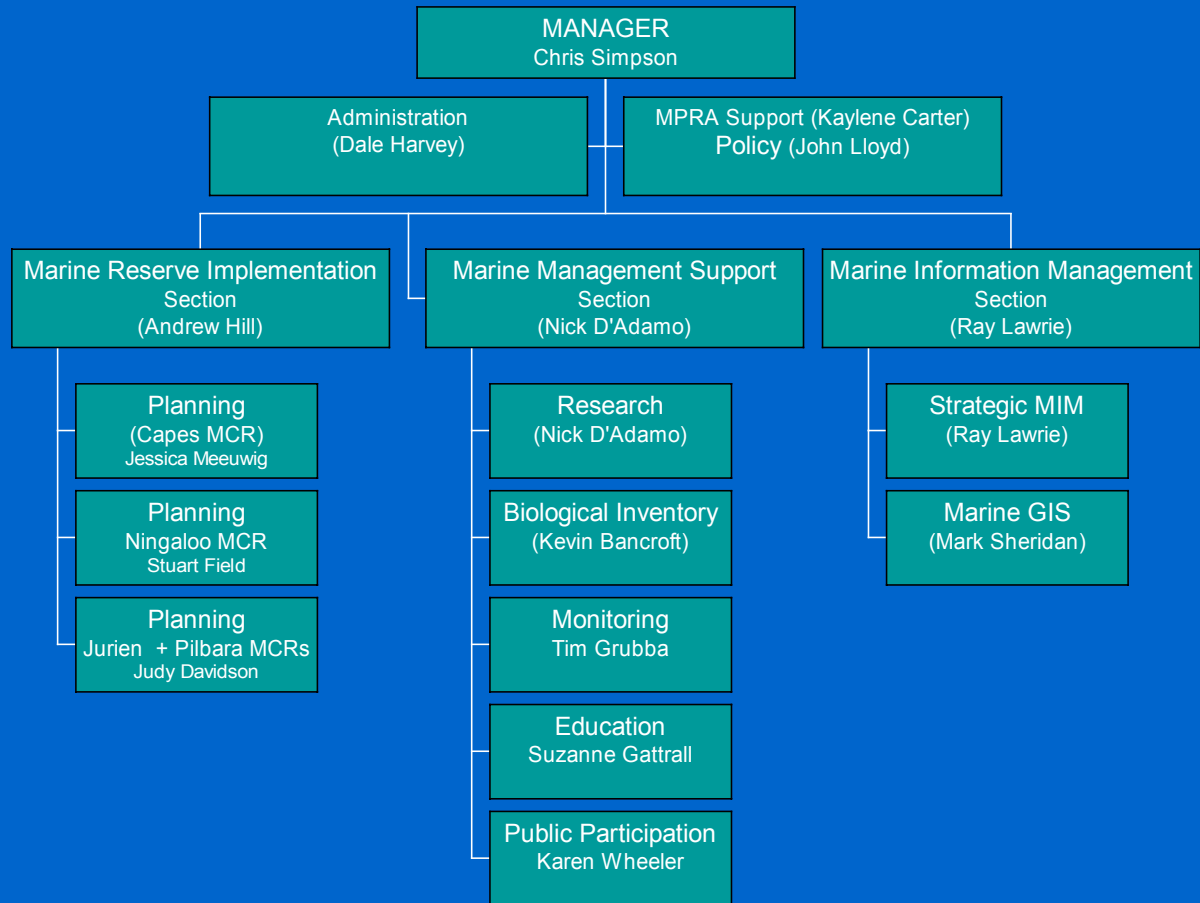
- Co-ordinate, at a strategic level, marine activities in CALM
- Provide a focus for external client liaison in relation to marine conservation in CALM

# MCB Approach

- STRATEGIC
- COLLABORATIVE
- SUPPORTIVE



# Marine Conservation Branch



# Current arrangements

<b>GENERIC MANAGEMENT STRATEGY</b>	<b>STATEWIDE (Strategic)</b>	<b>SITE-SPECIFIC (Operational)</b>
Administrative framework	<b>MCB, PPT, NPB</b>	<b>Districts/MCB</b>
Intervention (direct)	MCB, NPB	<b>Districts/MCB, NPB</b>
Public Participation	<b>MCB, SDCA</b>	<b>Districts/MCB</b>
Education & Interpretation	<b>MCB, IVIU</b>	<b>Districts/MCB, IVIU</b>
Surveillance & enforcement	<b>NPB, MCB</b>	<b>Districts/NPB</b>
Research	<b>MCB, CALMscience</b>	<b>MCB, CALMscience /Districts</b>
Monitoring	<b>MCB, CALMscience</b>	<b>MCB/Districts, CALMscience</b>

# Marine Reserve Implementation

## ACHIEVEMENTS (last five years)

- Significant progress on priority MPA areas
- External funding (>\$ 300 K p.a.)
- New consultative and public participation processes
- New structure of MPA management plans
- Increased community support for MPAs
- Increased stakeholder confidence in the MPA process
- Improved technical basis; GIS-based DSS

# Marine Management Support

## ACHIEVEMENTS (last five years)

- Primary bio-physical and social datasets
- Marine focus in WALIS
- Marine Information Management Systems
- Marine research databases
- Long-term monitoring programs
- Research and monitoring framework
- Operational management frameworks

## MMS - Last Five Years (continued)

- Whale shark management program
- Community monitoring project
- Strategic alliances with marine research organisations (i.e. AIMS, CMR, SRFME, CRC , Unis)
- Research ‘seed’ funding
- Marine policy (i.e. Moorings, MMA, Boating, etc)
- Marine ‘work plans’ - reconciling MPRA audit and CALM SPA requirements
- Regulations

# Wider Achievements

- REEF CHECK
- MPA management plan structure
- IUCN, UNEP etc
- Strategic R&M framework
- Whale shark management program
- *Marine Life* CD-ROM
- Marine community monitoring
- Staff win external awards for excellence
- SRFME

## MRI - Next three years

- Establish Jurien Bay Marine Park
- Finalise RSMP management plan and gazette extensions
- Establish Montebello/Barrow Islands MCR
- Establish Dampier Arch./Cape Preston MCR
- Review NMP management plan and gazette extensions (to reserve system)

## MRI - Next three years (continued)

- Finalisation of the SIMP management plan
- Progress to NOI stage for Leeuwin-Natualiste MCR
- Complete resource assessment phase of Walpole/Nornalup



## MMS - Next three years

- Implement MIMS in SBMP, Metro marine parks, RSMP
- Implement a major public MPA awareness program
- Develop and implement research, monitoring, education & interpretation, public participation and surveillance & enforcement plans for all existing reserves

## MMS - Next three years (continued)

- Develop standard MPA performance assessment framework
- Review and prioritise marine wildlife management arrangements
- Assist Moora District to set up Jurien Bay Marine Park
- Assist Pilbara Regions to set up newly created reserves

## Marine 'Program' - Strategic issues

### EXTERNAL

- Native Title
- Primacy of State legislation in relation to marine conservation
- Low 'visibility' outside CALM
- Need to build a constituency for marine conservation
- Better stakeholder integration in marine management
- Community involvement

## Marine 'Program' - Strategic issues (continued)

### INTERNAL

- Low 'visibility' inside CALM
- Resources to plan and manage
- Bio-regional approach
- Staffing policy and career pathways
- Inadequate marine research capability
- Inadequate marine monitoring capability

## Marine 'Program' - VISION 2010

- Statewide MPA system established
- Recognised internationally as a 'best practice' model
- Adequate funding for management (i.e. in three years estimated to need \$ 6-7 M)
- Community participation an integral part of the WA marine management model

## Marine 'Program' - VISION 2010 (continued)

- Centre for Marine Biodiversity Conservation established
- Courses in MPA management at local universities
- Tropical and temperate marine research stations established in regional WA

# SUMMARY

- MPA Planning process working well
- Three new MPAs and extensions to two to be gazetted in next three years
- Major progress made on managing existing reserves
- Need to ‘mainstream’ marine program
- Resources: the final major barrier
- Keep the ‘big picture’ in view