

# LIBRARY

Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions

This PDF has been created for digital preservation. It may be used for research but is not suitable for other purposes. It may be superseded by a more current version or just be out-of-date and have no relevance to current situations.

# Marine Management

## *Working Together on the North West Shelf*

---

*This brochure provides you with information about the community consultation programmes planned by the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Conservation and Land Management and Fisheries WA.*



Department of  
Environmental Protection



FISHERIES  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Department of Conservation  
and Land Management

**Environmental Protection Authority**

---



## What are the issues?

The Western Australian Government is committed to the protection and conservation of our marine environment and the ecologically sustainable use of our marine biological resources. The North West Shelf (NWS) region of Western Australia (WA) is home to a remarkable array of marine fauna such as corals, fish, starfish, sponges and shells as well as dugong, turtles, migratory whales and dolphins. The flora includes extensive seagrass meadows, diverse and abundant algal communities and productive mangrove ecosystems.

## What is happening?

To protect these valuable natural resources of the NWS the Government is developing a conservation and management strategy for the marine environment. This will take a number of years to do and the first step in this process is to get your views about three very important parts of this strategy:

- 1 - environmental protection;
- 2 - marine conservation;
- 3 - fisheries management.

The marine management strategy involves the community, industry and government working together to protect and maintain a healthy environment, good water quality, a diversity of plant and animal life and productive oceans. With foresight and understanding of the key ecological processes we can carefully balance protection, management and use of our marine biological resources.

## Who is involved?

The WA Government has allocated responsibilities for the protection, conservation and management of marine biological resources to three agencies, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) and Fisheries WA (FWA). These agencies are working together to co-ordinate the development of an integrated marine management strategy for the marine ecosystem on the NWS. The roles and responsibilities of each agency are outlined below.

## The result

The result will be a healthy and productive marine ecosystem managed by the community and Government for the benefit of present and future generations.

### This means that:

- 1 - there will be a clean, healthy marine environment where people can swim and fish in attractive surroundings;
- 2 - representative as well as special marine ecosystems are preserved and used in a sustainable manner; and
- 3 - our fish stocks are managed and used sustainably.



## Department of Environmental Protection

The DEP is conducting two linked programs on the NWS, the first is a comprehensive scientific study of the NWS marine environment on behalf of the State Government in order to develop an Environmental Management Strategy for the area. The second programme is a community consultation programme to get your views on the environmental quality you want for your marine coastal areas in the future. It is vital that information is exchanged between the community and the scientists.

We know that development leads to waste discharges that can cause contamination and associated changes to the environment. The DEP wants to know what level of protection the community wishes for the marine environment between Exmouth and Port Hedland.

We want to know your concerns in relation to environmental quality, **how much change** in environmental quality you consider acceptable, and **where** (what area) you would or would not accept a small reduction in our high level of protection to accommodate the varied and important uses of the marine environment that we, as a society, benefit from. If we set these environmental quality objectives now, we can use our scientific understanding to plan and manage our use of the environment to meet them and to ensure a healthy environment in the future.



For example, we want to know where you would like to see special areas, where you are not prepared to tolerate any change, and where environmental quality objectives should be set very high. However, you may consider that some change is acceptable in small areas used primarily for commercial or industrial activities and, if so, slightly lower environmental quality objectives may be set.

### **Become involved**

Here are some ways you can have a say:

- Contact DEP's Marine Management Branch or DEP's Karratha office (see below)
- Look out for information in schools, in the media and at public meetings.
- Participate/attend DEP information sessions/meetings, these will be organised and advertised through your local groups and in the media.
- Make submissions to the DEP on discussion documents.

How to contact us.

Marine Management Branch  
Department of Environmental Protection  
141 St George's Tce  
Perth 6000  
Tel: 08 9222 7000  
Fax: 08 9321 5184

Pilbara Regional Office,  
Department of Environmental Protection  
SGIO Building, Welcome Rd  
Karratha 6714  
Tel: 08 9143 1499  
Fax: 08 9144 1326



## **Department of Conservation and Land Management**

CALM is responsible for establishing a statewide system of marine conservation reserves throughout WA. Marine conservation reserves allow for most recreational and commercial activities to continue provided conservation values are protected. The reserves have two primary roles:

- To preserve representative as well as special ecosystems in the marine environment; and
- To put a formal management framework in place to ensure the various uses of marine conservation reserves are managed in an equitable, integrated and sustainable manner.

Two areas in the Pilbara region have been identified by the WA Government as priority areas for consideration as marine conservation reserves over the next two to three years. These are the Montebello/Barrow Islands region and the Dampier Archipelago/Cape Preston region. CALM will be undertaking a public consultation process to facilitate planning of marine conservation reserves in these areas. The focus of public consultation will be community based advisory committees, which are appointed by the Minister for the Environment.

These committees assist CALM in providing advice to the Minister for the Environment in relation to reserve categories and boundaries, management zones and other management issues. This advice will be provided in the form of draft management plans. The draft management plans are then made available for a statutory three month public submission period. CALM will be actively seeking the participation of the public in the planning process to ensure that the marine reserve proposals consider all interests and have broad community support. There are a number of ways to get involved in planning marine conservation reserves in the Pilbara.

### **Become involved**

Here are some ways you can have a say:

- Contact CALM's Karratha Office or Marine Conservation Branch (see below).
- Participate/attend CALM information sessions/open days and other forums.
- Contact members of the two advisory committees.
- Make submissions to CALM when the draft management plan is released.

How to contact us.

Marine Conservation Branch  
Department of Conservation and Land Management  
47 Henry St  
Fremantle 6160  
Tel: (08) 9432 5100  
Fax: (08) 9430 5408

Karratha Regional Office  
Department of Conservation and Land Management  
Mardie Rd  
Karratha 6714  
Tel: (08) 9143 1488  
Fax: (08) 9144 1118





## Fisheries WA

FWA is responsible for the conservation and development of the State's fish and other living aquatic resources for the benefit of present and future generations, under the provisions of the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*.

Commercial fisheries operating on the NWS include the Nickol Bay Prawn Fishery, Pilbara Fish Trawl Fishery, Western Australian North Coast Shark Fishery, Onslow Prawn Trawl Fishery, Pearl Oyster Fishery, and Pilbara Trap Fishery. The area supports a valuable pearling industry and is the site of a number of developing aquaculture operations.

In 2000/2001 FWA will commence work on the preparation of two strategies:

- Regional Fisheries Environmental Management Strategy; and
- Regional Recreational Fishing Strategy.

Consultative Committees will be established to have input into the development of the strategies.

The commercial and recreational fisheries resources and aquaculture of the NWS are very important. FWA will prepare a Regional Fisheries Environmental Management Strategy for the Pilbara. This report will document the fisheries resources of the Region and identify any human activities which may threaten them. It will outline how FWA will work with all stakeholders to protect the marine environment. The strategy will identify possible Fish Habitat Protection Areas on the NWS.

Recreational fishing is a very popular activity in the Pilbara. FWA is working with stakeholders to increase individual responsibility and community support for sustainable recreational fishing. It is also working to improve the quality and diversity of experience for recreational fishers. In 2001 a Consultative Committee will be established to commence the development of a Regional Recreational Fishing Strategy, which will provide a blueprint for the long term management of recreational fishing on the NWS.

### **Become involved**

Here are some ways to have your say:

- Contact FWA (see below).
- Participate/attend FWA information sessions.
- Contact members of consultative committees.
- Make submissions to FWA, when the draft management strategy is released.

How to contact us.

Fisheries Western Australia  
168 St George's Tce  
Perth 6000  
Tel: 08 9482 7318  
Fax: 08 9481 3576