

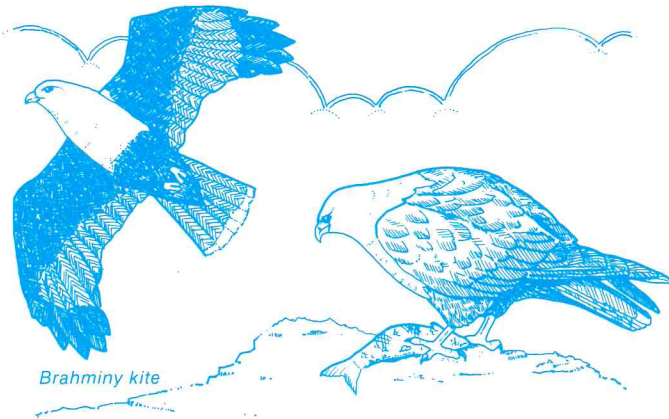
LIBRARY

Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

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PLANNING FOR NINGALOO

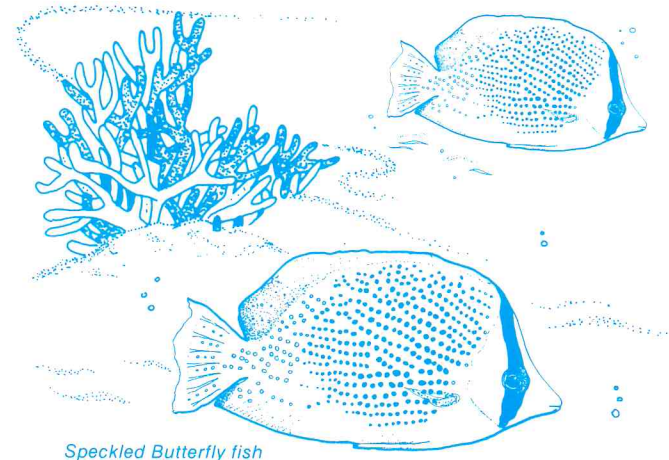
Plans to manage the area are being prepared by the Department of Conservation and Land Management in consultation with user groups, Local, State and Commonwealth authorities.



Brahminy kite

One of the strategies proposed in the plans will be to establish zones in the Park for different activities. These zones will cater for most of the current activities in the Park, and will also incorporate sanctuary areas where the message will be "Look, but don't take".

Sanctuaries will be used as biological benchmarks against which other zones can be compared. They will also protect breeding populations of fish and other marine life capable of replenishing other areas that may become depleted through human activities.



Speckled Butterfly fish

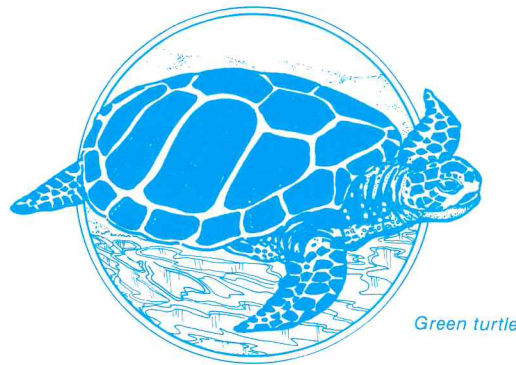
CARING FOR NINGALOO

BE CAREFUL: Always anchor on a sandy bottom, and take care not to damage delicate coral formations. When scuba diving or snorkelling display the appropriate flag.

BE CLEAN: Take your litter ashore and place it in the bins provided.

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

COME BACK: Conserve fish numbers by only taking what you need.



Green turtle

FURTHER INFORMATION

CALM and Fisheries officers regularly patrol coastal areas of the Marine Park. They will be glad to help you with any questions you may have.

Department of Conservation and Land Management
P.O. Box 201, Exmouth, 6707. (099) 49 1676. Facsimile
(099) 49 1580.

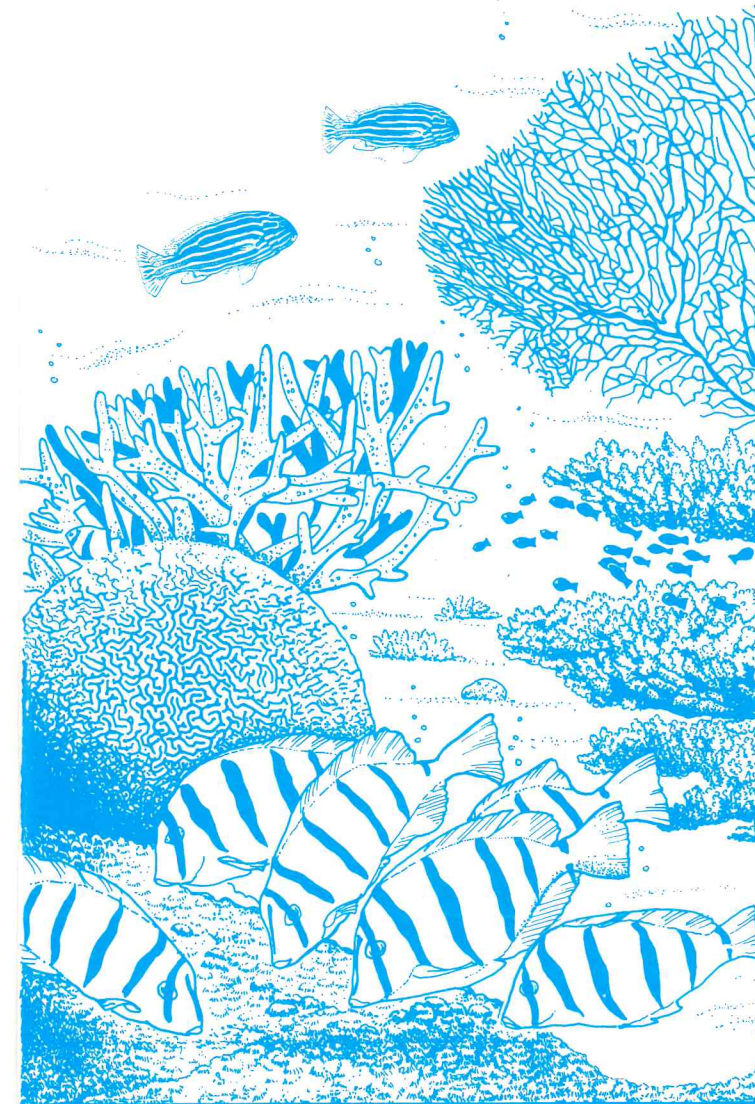
Greenough Regional Office
P.O. Box 72, Geraldton, 6530. (099) 21 5955. Facsimile
(099) 21 5667.

State Headquarters
50 Hayman Road, Como, 6152. (09) 3670333. Facsimile
(09) 3670466.



NINGALOO

MARINE PARK



DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT W.A.

Along the northwest coast of W.A. runs one of Australia's great coral barrier reefs: the Ningaloo Reef.

Inshore the reef protects a shallow lagoon, and here an extraordinary variety of marine life abounds in the warm clear water.

Ningaloo is one of only two large coral reef systems to occur on the western edge of a continent. It is also the only large reef that occurs so close to a continental land mass: about 100 m offshore at its nearest point and less than 7 km at its furthest.

The reef has long been popular with holidaymakers and fishermen, but as its popularity grows, so too does the pressure on this fragile environment.

Ningaloo Marine Park was created to protect this remarkable reef, so that it can continue to provide a place for both the marine life and for you.

The Marine Park stretches from Bundegi reef in Exmouth Gulf, around North-West Cape, and 260 km south to Amherst Point. Seaward the Park extends about 10 nautical miles, and encompasses over 5000 square kilometres of ocean.

UNDER SEA, OVER STONE

The coral formations of the Ningaloo reef have been growing slowly for millennia.

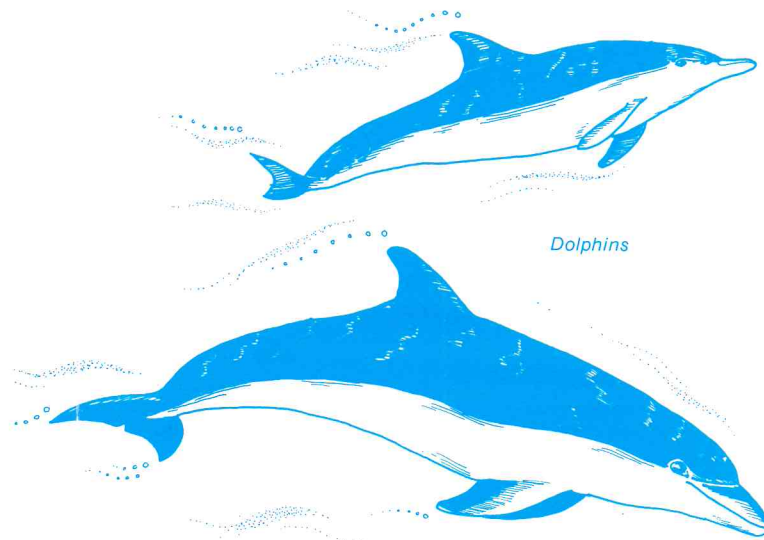
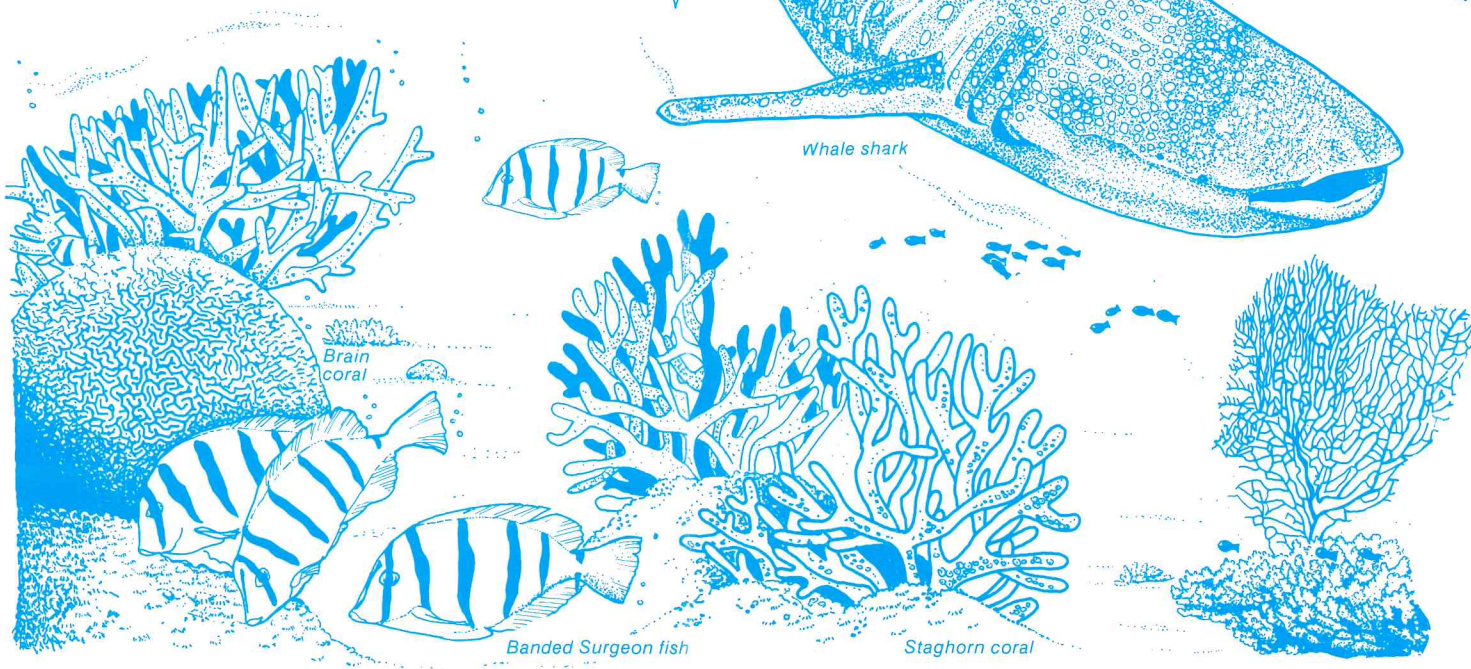
On the arid coast and hinterland of Cape Range National Park, which adjoins the northern end of the marine park, fossil corals and sharks' teeth dating back millions of years have been found and bear testimony to the history of coral growth in the region.

In the sheltered waters of the reef lagoon many types of marine life, have made their home. Over 180 species of coral, the reef-builders, have been identified, ranging from the massive slow-growing porites 'bommies', to delicate, colourful branching corals.

More than 460 species of reef-dwelling and pelagic fish occupy waters near the reef.

The massive, but harmless, whale shark also visits these waters. These ocean giants grow to a staggering 40,000 kg, and 18 m, and slowly drift the ocean currents filtering vast quantities of water for the plankton they feed on. The whale shark is the world's largest fish.

Marine mammals such as dolphins, humpback whales, and the dugong may all be observed in or near the reef lagoon, and during summer, turtles make their way up some beaches at night to lay their eggs.



NINGALOO AND YOU

Ningaloo reef means different things to different people.

Some come to enjoy the wild coastline and the rich life of the reef, some depend on it for their livelihood, and some come to study the intricate web of life in this ideal underwater laboratory.

Some activities exploit the resources of the reef, some have less obvious effects, but all have an impact on the reef system.

Striking a balance to preserve this extraordinary natural area and its marine inhabitants from over-exploitation, while keeping the right of access for everyone, requires careful management.

Ningaloo Marine Park

THINGS TO SEE AND DO

CAMPING

The northern shoreline of the Marine Park borders on the Cape Range National Park. In this area, campsites, some with basic facilities such as toilets and picnic tables, are provided. A camping fee applies, and is collected by the National Park rangers. More information is provided in the Cape Range National Park brochure.

South of the National Park the coastal land is covered by privately controlled pastoral leases. By arrangement with the pastoralists certain areas have been designated as bush camping sites. A small camping fee may apply in these areas to help cover maintenance costs.

BOATING

Launching ramps are available at the town beach in Exmouth, Bundegi and Tantabiddi creek. Hand launching of small craft is possible at other places on the coast, and moderately sized boats can be launched from the beach at Coral Bay.

The Exmouth volunteer sea-rescue group man a radio station at Bundegi on Saturdays and Sundays from 8 am to 6 pm. The station is not manned on weekdays.

DIVING

The reef offers some superb opportunities for diving and photography. Plans for the Park include the development of 'dive trails', which will guide divers to some of the more fascinating parts of the reef. Several historic shipwrecks have been found in the area, and at least four others are known to exist. The W.A. Maritime Museum is responsible for these. Look by all means, but please don't touch.

FISHING

Fishing in the Ningaloo Reef lagoon, and in waters outside the reef, is a major attraction to holidaymakers. Species caught include sweetlip, spangled emperor, trevally, Spanish mackerel, wahoo, tuna, marlin and sailfish.

Department of Fisheries regulations apply to Marine Parks. Details of regulations, including size and bag limits, are provided in the Fisheries Department publication 'Recreational Fishing: A guide to the rules'. Copies are available from Fisheries and CALM offices.

BIRDWATCHING

A Boardwalk and birdhide have been established at Mangrove Bay for watching migratory waders and other birds.

VISITOR CENTRE

A visitor centre, at Milyering near the Exmouth end of the Park, is currently under construction.

The centre has been jointly funded by the Commonwealth of Australia and the West Australian Government to commemorate Australia's Bicentenary in 1988.

Displays, an audiovisual facility, a library, and a videodisc index will contain a wealth of information on the Marine Park to help visitors further explore and understand the marine environment.

