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Conservation and Attractions

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The marine environment of this State is owned by all Western Australians. Unlike the land, where usage rights are defined by titles and boundaries, the sea is not private property, but is a common asset available to all users. While the freedom of open access is cherished by most Western Australians, experience elsewhere clearly demonstrates that increasing levels of human use lead to conflict among users, and eventually to environmental degradation.



Marine Conservation Reserves cater for a wide range of recreational activities
Photo courtesy of Fisheries WA

The establishment of marine conservation reserves in the Pilbara region will provide a framework to ensure environmental protection, maintain human usage at a sustainable level and minimise conflict among users. The planning process for the establishment of a marine reserve relies heavily on community input. Access to local knowledge and experience of the area, and the consideration and mutual understanding of all interests, are essential ingredients to protect the environment and accommodate the widest range of uses.

As a facilitator of the planning process, the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) urges readers to become involved, either via members of the community Advisory Committees or through the public submission process. For further information about the Pilbara region and the marine reserve planning process, contact CALM at:

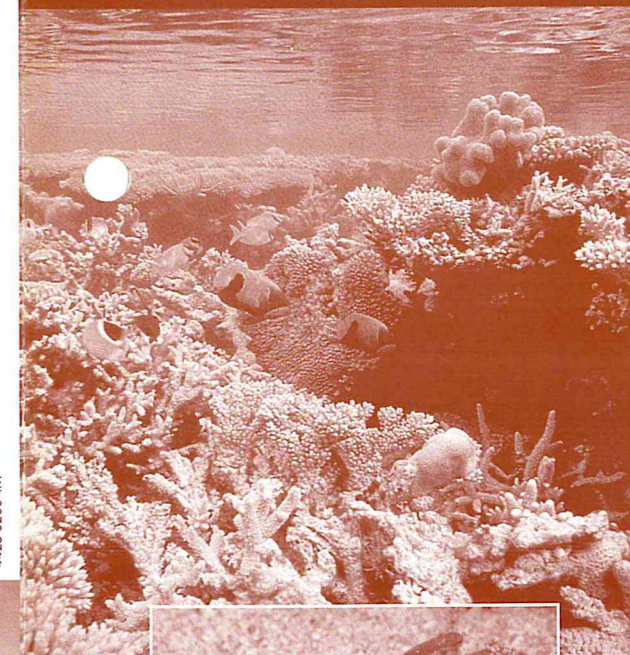
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Pilbara Region



4425-0200-4M



Study Areas for Proposed Marine Conservation Reserves



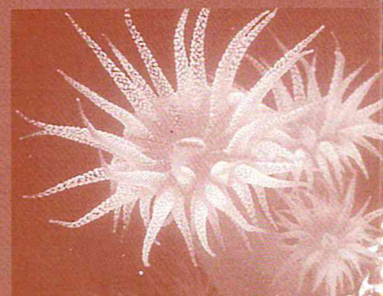
February 2000



Pearling and other commercial activities are catered for in Marine Conservation Reserves
Photo courtesy of Fisheries WA



Crested Tern



Coral polyps

The Western Australian Government is committed to the conservation of our marine environment and the sustainable use of our natural resources. A major component of the State's marine conservation and management strategy is the establishment of a statewide system of marine conservation reserves.

Most WA marine conservation reserves cater for fishing and other human activities. They reflect a balanced approach by preserving representative ecosystems and habitats, while providing a management framework to ensure that recreational and commercial uses are managed in an equitable, integrated and sustainable manner.

Two areas of the Pilbara coast have been identified for further consideration as marine conservation reserves during the next 2 to 3 years. These are illustrated in the accompanying map.



Main cover photos:
Coral reef
Inset: Male fiddler crab
Left: Humpback whale
Photo by Doug Coughran

