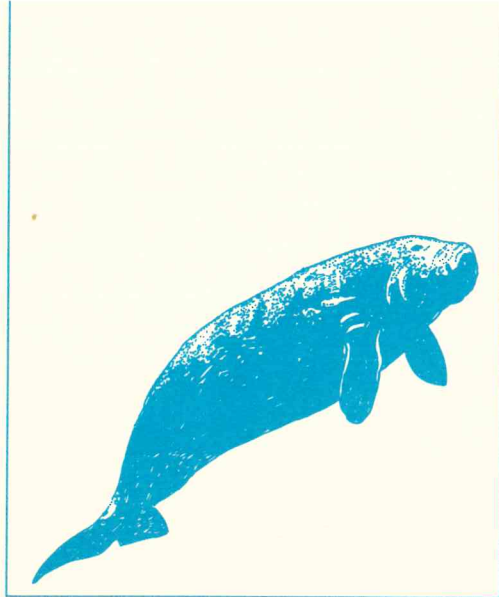


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Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions

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P R O P O S E D

# Shark Bay

MARINE PARK

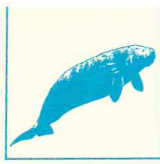
AND

# Hamelin Pool

MARINE NATURE RESERVE



Department of Conservation and Land Management

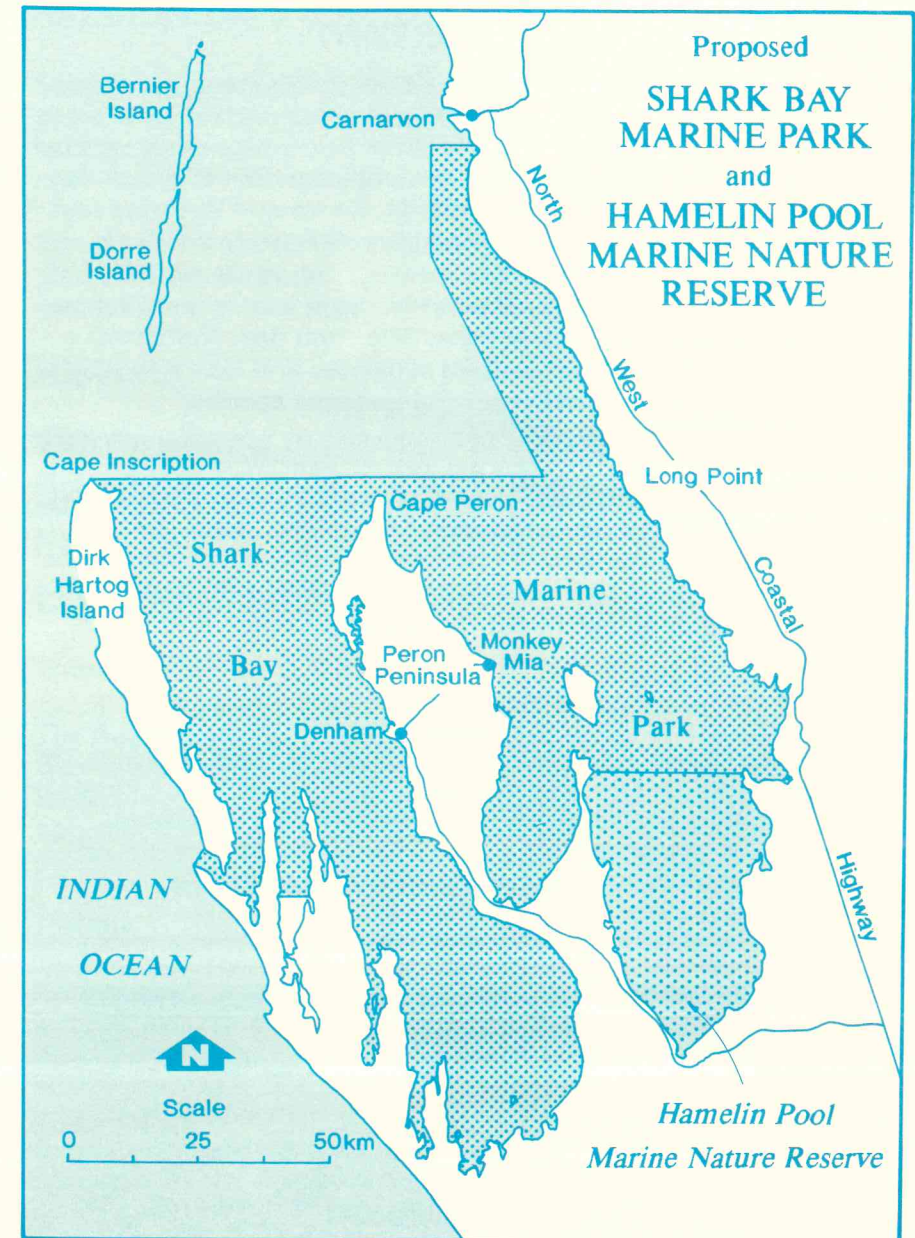
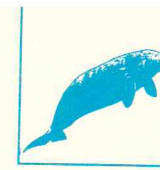
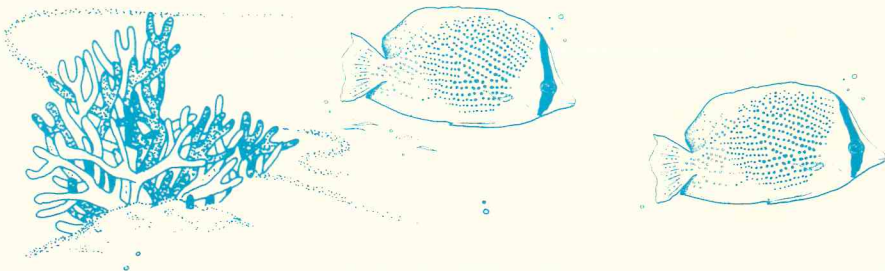


This booklet has been prepared by the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) to provide information on the proposed Shark Bay Marine Park and Hamelin Pool Marine Nature Reserve including:

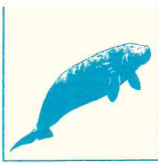
- ◆ what marine parks and marine nature reserves are and how they are managed,
- ◆ where the proposed Shark Bay Marine Park and Hamelin Pool Marine Nature Reserve are located and why reserving these areas is important,
- ◆ how you can contribute to their creation and later on their management.

The Shark Bay Region Plan was prepared with community consultation and was adopted by State Government in 1988. The Region Plan recommended the establishment of a Marine Park and a Marine Nature Reserve to provide protection and management of marine resources in Shark Bay and to provide the most appropriate mechanism for minimising conflicts between uses of the area.

The proposed Marine Park and Marine Nature Reserve represent stage one of implementation of the Region Plan recommendations for marine conservation reserves. (See map opposite.)







## WHY THIS AREA IS IMPORTANT

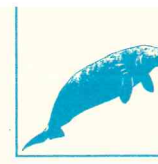
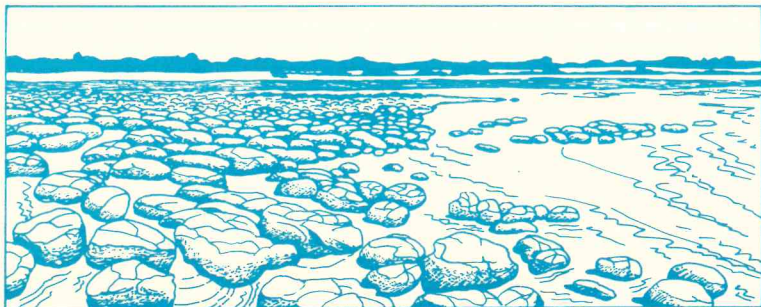
### CONSERVATION

The natural beauty of the marine area and coastline of Shark Bay is recognised for its diversity of habitats, its unique lifeforms and abundant sea animals. The proposed Shark Bay Marine Park contains the second largest dugong population in the world, humpback and other species of whale (during winter months) and friendly dolphins which visit Monkey Mia each day. Numerous small islands are important seabird rookeries and host a variety of plants and animals, including several endemic species.

The proposed Hamelin Pool Marine Nature Reserve contains internationally renowned deposits of stromatolites that are living evidence of early life forms originating 3.5 billion years ago. Stromatolites are formed by the microbial action of cyanobacteria which have trapped suspended particles to form sedimentary structures ranging in form from thin mats to domed structures.

### EDUCATION/SCIENTIFIC STUDY

The diversity of marine and terrestrial plants, animals and landforms in Shark Bay offer excellent opportunities for community education and study. The abundance of large sea creatures, particularly dugongs, whales and dolphins, provide opportunities for studying the biology and behaviour of these animals.



### RECREATION

Swimming, snorkelling, diving and observation of wildlife are popular recreation activities. The shallow waters are ideal for sailing, windsurfing and other boating pleasures. The abundance and variety of fish make Shark Bay a good area for fishing.

The proposed Marine Park and Marine Nature Reserve are also places where the community can relax and enjoy the ocean and coastal scenery, the myriad of wildlife and the crystal-clear waters.

### HISTORIC

With the arrival of Dirk Hartog 372 years ago, Shark Bay was the site of the first recorded European landing on Western Australian soil. He was followed by numerous French expeditions. Several shipwrecks of early pioneers are found in the proposed Marine Park.

### COMMERCIAL PURPOSES

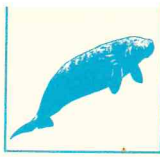
#### Tourism

The dolphins at Monkey Mia and the diversity of attractions in Shark Bay make the area a popular tourist destination. Increasing levels of recreational use and tourism will provide more opportunities for commercial facilities and concessional operations, such as scenic tours and fishing boat charters.

#### Fishing

Commercial line fishing and beach seine fishing are important industries in Shark Bay, and occur in many areas of the proposed Marine Park. There is also potential for the pearling industry to be redeveloped in a new form (aquaculture). The types, level of fishing and areas of operation will be provided for in the context of a management plan formulated under the CALM Act. Fisheries are managed by the Fisheries Department in consultation with CALM.





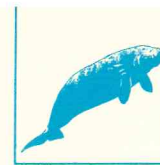
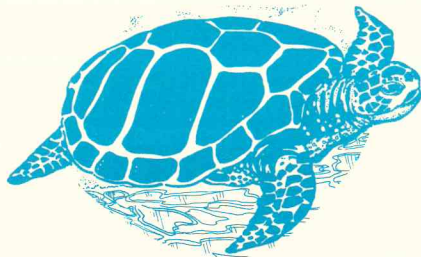
## *WHY WE NEED MARINE PARKS AND MARINE NATURE RESERVES*

Marine parks and marine nature reserves are established to protect waters and land of special conservation value and habitats for marine and terrestrial flora and fauna. Marine parks provide mechanisms for ensuring sustained recreational and commercial uses without impairing natural resources. Marine nature reserves have an emphasis on conservation without exploitation and do not provide for fishing or for collecting anything living or non-living. Both parks and reserves are managed to ensure that the values that make the area attractive are retained for you and your children to use and enjoy for all time.

Marine parks exist in Perth (Marmion Marine Park from Trigg Island to Burns Beach) and near Exmouth (Ningaloo Marine Park). Other marine parks are proposed for Rowley Shoals, Shoalwater Islands, in the Swan River estuary and the Abrolhos Islands.

## *WHO MANAGES MARINE PARKS AND MARINE NATURE RESERVES*

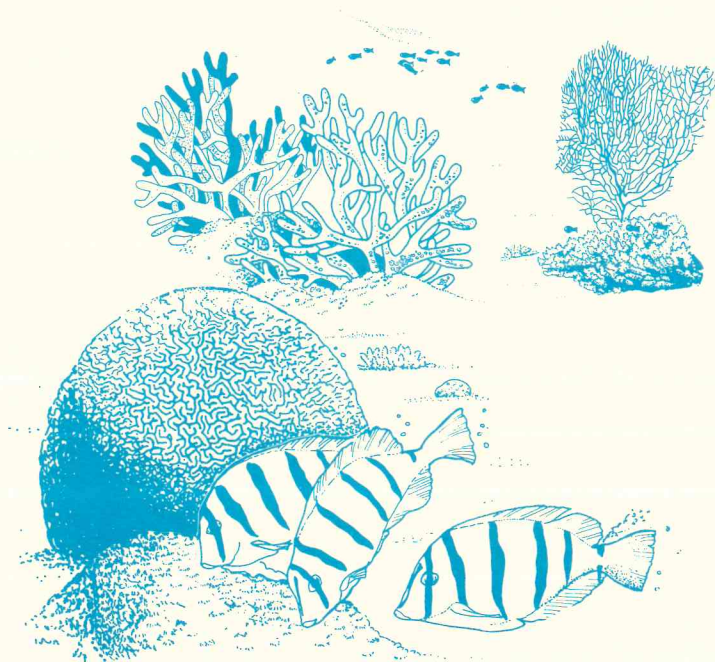
Marine parks are vested in the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority and managed by CALM. The Fisheries Department is responsible for managing commercial and recreational fishing in marine parks in collaboration with CALM. The Department of Marine and Harbours is responsible for all boating and navigation. Local authorities, community associations, clubs and volunteer groups also have an important input into management.

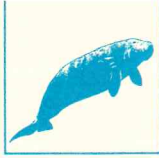


## *HOW MARINE PARKS AND MARINE NATURE RESERVES ARE MANAGED*

Marine parks are divided into zones to help separate and manage uses and activities which may either conflict with each other or result in degradation of the natural values. Different zones provide for varying levels of recreational and commercial use and may also protect special areas from exploitation. Marine nature reserves can be zoned in a manner similar to marine parks, but with different zoning categories that do not provide for fishing or collecting.

Zoning and other management strategies are considered only in the context of a management plan once the marine park or marine nature reserve is created. This is prepared with public consultation and comment before approval and is current for up to 10 years before review.





## *HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE*

Marine parks and marine nature reserves are declared under the CALM Act. This involves the following stages:

1. Issuing a Notice of Intent (NOI) proposing reserve boundaries.
2. Consideration of public submissions in response to the NOI after a submission period of at least two months.
3. Giving notice for 14 sitting days and receiving approval from both Houses of Parliament.

We are at the first stage of this process and would welcome a submission from you giving us your views. It will, after all, be your Marine Park and Marine Nature Reserve.

Send your submissions to:

**Shark Bay Project**

Department of Conservation and Land Management  
P.O. Box 104  
COMO W.A. 6152

Phone: 367 0333

We look forward to your participation.



DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT