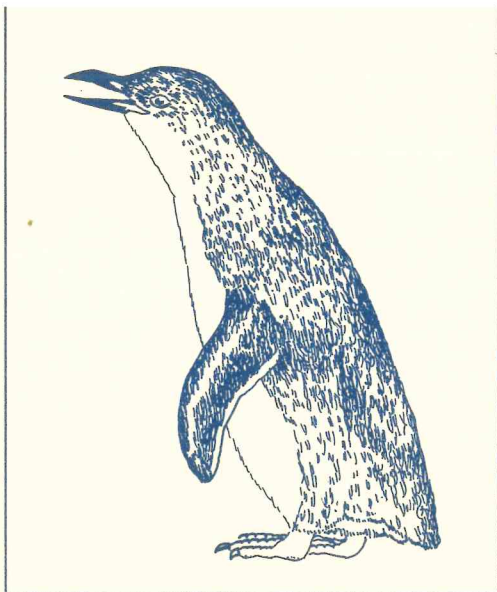


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Department of Biodiversity,
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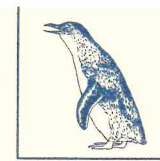
P R O P O S E D

Shoalwater Islands

MARINE PARK



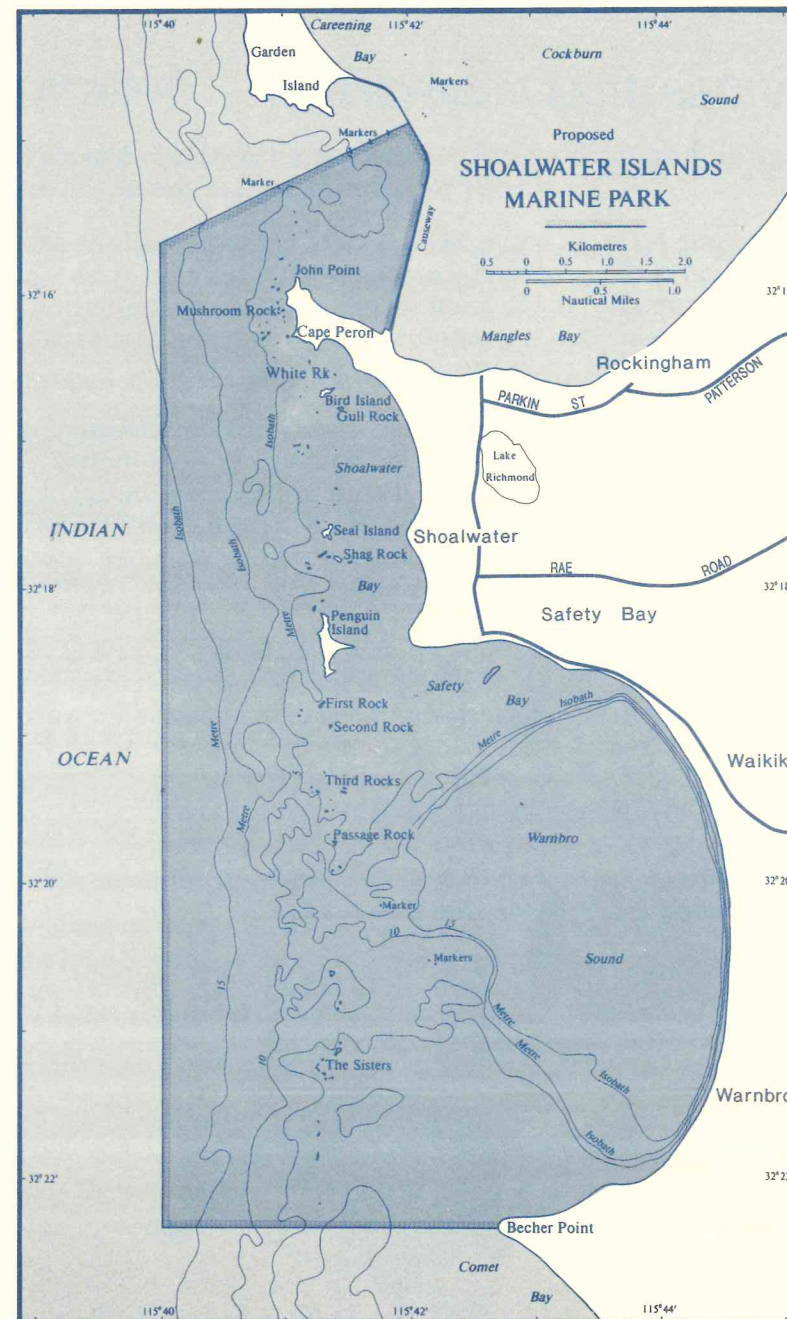
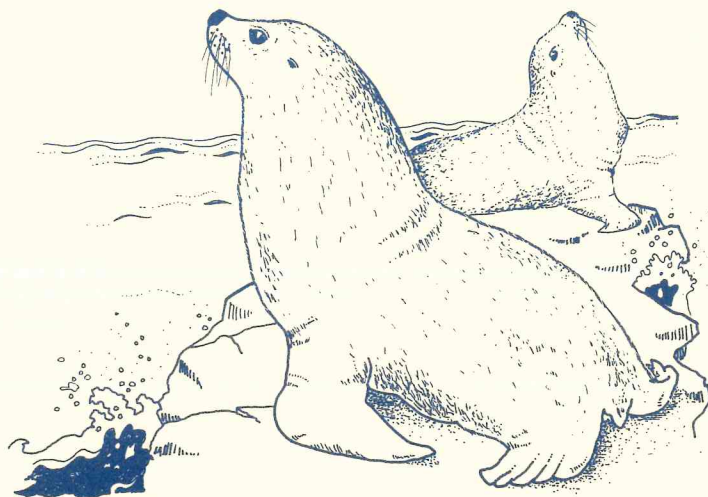
Department of Conservation and Land Management



This booklet has been prepared by the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) to provide information on the proposed Shoalwater Islands Marine Park including:

- ◆ what marine parks are and how they are managed,
- ◆ where the proposed Shoalwater Islands Marine Park is and why reserving this area is important,
- ◆ how you can contribute to its creation and later on its management.

The proposed Park is located along the west coast of Rockingham from Cape Peron to Becher Point. It contains waters of Warnbro Sound and Shoalwater Bay (see map opposite).





WHY THIS AREA IS IMPORTANT

CONSERVATION

The limestone reefs, seagrass beds, sandy seafloors and numerous rocky islands of the proposed Marine Park are home to a host of plants and animals. These habitats are particularly important for breeding colonies of Little Penguins and other seabirds and are resting places for the endangered Australian Sealion.

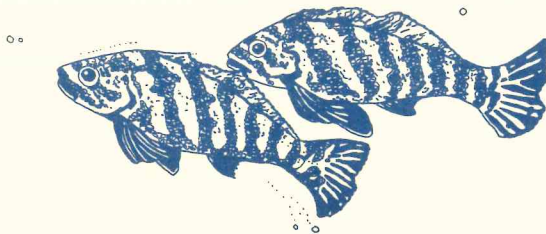
Warnbro and Cockburn Sound present a unique environment on the west coast, with deep silty basins containing a distinctive mixture of temperate and tropical invertebrates surrounded by shallow sandy areas with extensive seagrass beds. The decline of Cockburn Sound due to industrialisation makes Warnbro Sound a critically important conservation area.

This part of the Perth coast has an array of islands and reefs which are close to the mainland. The high value of this area for recreation depends largely on the conservation of habitats associated with the islands.

EDUCATION/SCIENTIFIC STUDY

The area offers many opportunities for community education on the flora and fauna and coastal processes.

The proposed Park is within easy access of schools, tertiary institutions and natural history clubs and is frequently used by students and other groups for nature study.



RECREATION

The fish and crustaceans that shelter and grow in the surrounding waters are keenly sought by amateur fishermen.

Fishing and recreational activities such as sailing, windsurfing, skiing, diving and snorkelling all compete for space in the clear and scenic waters.

The proposed Park is a place where the community can relax and enjoy the island and ocean scenery, the myriad of wildlife and cool sea breezes.

COMMERCIAL PURPOSES

Tourism

The level of recreational use and public interaction with wildlife in the proposed Park is rapidly increasing. The proposed Park can provide a range of active and passive experiences. Increasing use means increasing tourism and opportunities for commercial facilities and concessions, such as boat tours of the waters, reef and islands.

Fishing

Some areas of the proposed Park are used extensively for commercial fishing. The types, level of fishing and areas of operations 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.





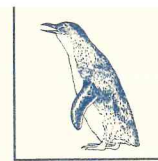
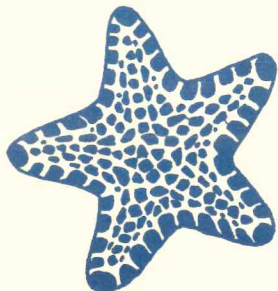
WHY WE NEED MARINE PARKS

Marine parks are established to protect waters and land of special conservation value and habitats for marine and terrestrial flora and fauna. They provide for recreational and commercial fishing and a variety of other uses consistent with conserving and restoring the natural environment. They are managed to ensure that the values that make the park attractive are retained for you and your children to use and enjoy for all time.

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

WHO MANAGES MARINE PARKS

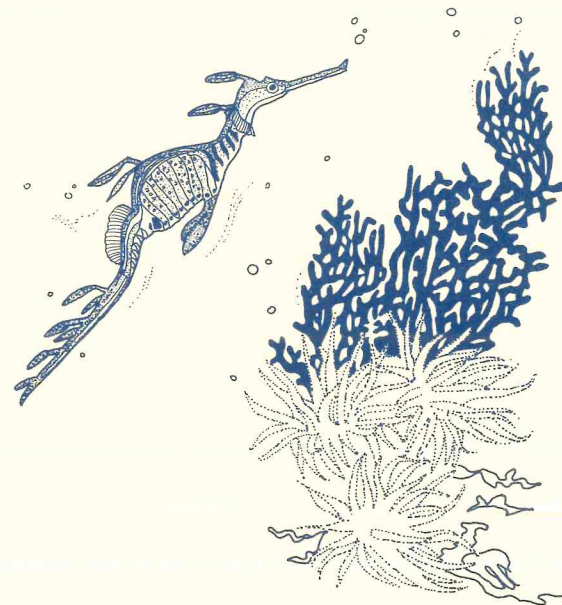
Marine parks are vested in the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority and managed by CALM. The Fisheries Department is responsible for managing commercial and recreational fishing in collaboration with CALM. The Department of Marine and Harbours is responsible for all boating and navigation.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



HOW MARINE PARKS 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 uses and may also protect special areas from exploitation.

Zoning and other management strategies are considered only in the context of a management plan once the Park is created. A management plan 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 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.

Send your submissions to:

Shoalwater Islands 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