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Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

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Before engaging in activities in the marine park users should refer to the permitted activities table and map in this brochure and check with the Department of Fisheries for fishing regulations that apply.

fisheries legislation restricts the 'take' of some species such as serranids (cods, groupers and coral trout), wrasses (specifically Maori wrasse), snappers, humphead parrotfish, live molluscs and live coral.

recreational fishing is permitted in recreation and general use zones with additional restrictions on fishing in sanctuaries. These zones are not permitted in sanctuary zones.

access by boats is generally permitted throughout the marine park although localised restrictions may apply to protect corals.

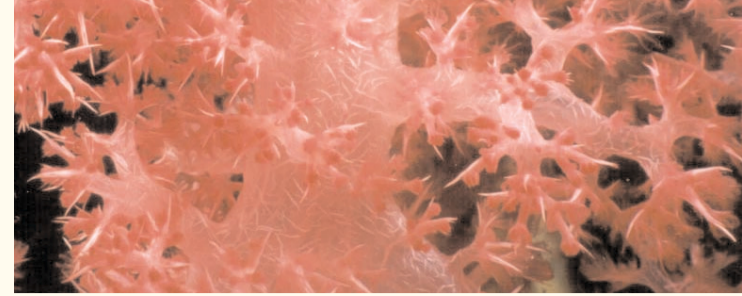
recreational fishing is permitted in recreation and general use zones with additional restrictions on fishing in sanctuaries. These zones are not permitted in sanctuary zones.

While many existing activities can continue, there are specific restrictions on activities in some zones. In respect to the major commercial and recreational activities in the area:

- fishing is not permitted in sanctuary zones;
 - recreational fishing is permitted in recreation and general use zones with additional restrictions on fishing in sanctuaries. These zones are not permitted in sanctuary zones;
 - access by boats is generally permitted throughout the marine park although localised restrictions may apply to protect corals;
 - fishing is not permitted in sanctuary zones;
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- How will the marine park affect recreational activities.
- while allowing for sustainable commercial and recreational activities.
- General-use zones are managed for nature conservation and recreation, including recreational fishing, where this is compatible with conservation values.
 - Recreation zones are managed for nature conservation and recreation, including recreational fishing, where this is compatible with conservation values.
 - Sanctuary zones are 'look but don't take' areas managed solely for nature conservation and low-impact recreation and tourism. Sanctuary zones are important for research and monitoring programs as they provide relatively 'undisturbed' sites for comparisons with other protected areas or MPAs) are special areas of the ocean that are established to provide increased legal protection for marine flora and fauna and their habitats, to promote wise use and enjoyment of these areas and enhanced management of commercial and recreational activities.
- What are marine conservation reserves?
- Marine conservation reserves (also known as marine protected areas or MPAs) are special areas of the ocean that are established to provide increased legal protection for marine flora and fauna and their habitats, to promote wise use and enjoyment of these areas and enhanced management of commercial and recreational activities.

Rowley Shoals Marine Park zones

The Rowley Shoals Marine Park has sanctuary, recreation, and general use zones.



The conservation and sustainable use of WA's marine environment is everyone's responsibility. By working together to promote wise use we can ensure that future generations enjoy the same opportunities that exist today.

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Rowley Shoals Marine Park

The State Government has extended the Rowley Shoals Marine Park to include all of the State waters surrounding the Shoals and is releasing a management plan for the park.

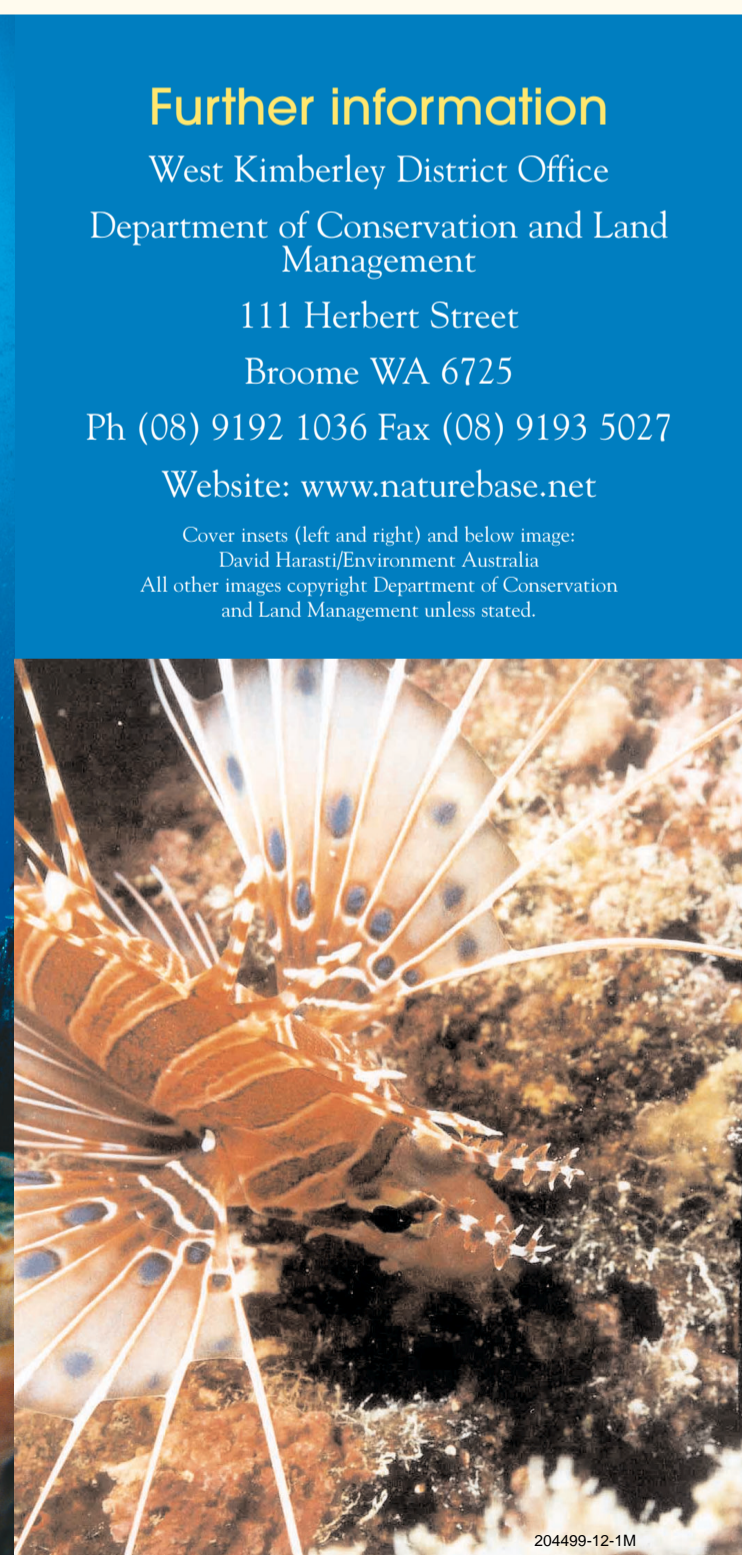
The Rowley Shoals are Australia's best example of shelf edge coral atolls.

The shoals are located over 300 km off the Kimberley coast, and consist of three reefs: Impertuse Reef, Clerke Reef and Mermad Reef. Impertuse Reef and Clerke Reef and their surrounding State waters make up the Rowley Shoals Marine Park. Mermad Reef is a Marine National Nature Reserve under Commonwealth legislation. The Rowley Shoals are home to an exceptionally rich and diverse array of oceanic coral reef flora and fauna typical of the Indo-west Pacific region. The area is a premier diving and nature-based tourism destination and also provides world class sports fishing in the deeper waters around Impertuse Reef and Clerke Reef.

Managing the marine environment

The State Government is committed to the conservation of the State's marine biodiversity and the sustainable use of our coastal resources. A major strategy to achieve these objectives is to establish a network of marine conservation reserves along our coast. The WA system of marine reserves is part of Australia's National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas.

Other complementary ways of conserving and protecting, oil spill response capability and maritime safety regulations.



Clay Bryce/Loshman Transparencies

Further information

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YOUR GUIDE TO

ROWLEY SHOALS Marine Park

Entrusted to the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority and managed by the Department of Conservation and Land Management, in partnership with other State and Commonwealth agencies and users, on behalf of all Australians.

Government of Western Australia
 Department of Conservation and Land Management
 MPR - MARINE PARKS & RESERVES AUTHORITY

PROTECTING THE KEY VALUES

Ecological values

The coral reef communities of the Rowley Shoals Marine Park are exceptionally rich and diverse, representing oceanic coral reef communities typical of the Indo-West Pacific. Lying in the clear, outer waters of the Rowley Shelf, the Rowley Shoals Marine Park is home to many species not typically found in the relatively turbid, inshore waters of northern tropical WA and contributes to the conservation of WA's marine biodiversity.

Along with Seringapatam Reef and Scott Reef further north, the Rowley Shoals form part of a series of ecological 'stepping stones' linking WA and south-east Asian waters. The larvae of many coral reef species, whose origins are in Indonesian waters, are transported southward by currents flowing from the Pacific Ocean to the northern Indian Ocean, stopping off at reef systems in the current's path. The Rowley Shoals are believed to be an important upstream source of fish and coral larvae for reefs further south in WA.

How will the Rowley Shoals Marine Park be managed?

Effective management of the marine park depends on the support, cooperation and participation of the major commercial and recreational user groups. Visitors need to acknowledge, understand and support the objectives of the reserves. Commonwealth government activities inside and outside the reserves should be sympathetic to the purposes of the reserves.

Rowley Shoals Marine Park is vested (legally entrusted) to the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority, a community-based body established by the State Government to oversee the statewide system of marine conservation reserves.

The Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) is the primary day-to-day manager of the marine reserves, in partnership with other State and Commonwealth Government agencies, particularly the Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH), and major user groups. The Department of Fisheries (DoF) will continue to manage recreational fishing in the marine park in close cooperation with CALM. The detailed management arrangements for the marine park are outlined in the Rowley Shoals Marine Park Management Plan. A Memorandum of Understanding outlines cooperative arrangements between CALM, DEH and DoF.

The primary focus of management in the initial years will be the implementation of the new zoning scheme and the establishment of education, public participation, research and monitoring programs. Ongoing user group involvement in the day to day management of the park will be vital.

Education and public participation programs help to raise community awareness, understanding and support for the marine park and promote community cooperation and involvement in management.



The Rowley Shoals are the best geological example of shelf-edge atolls on the Australian continental shelf, with the three reefs representing three distinct stages of atoll formation and providing insights into the historical development of such atolls.

Social values

The relative isolation of the Rowley Shoals means the marine park is renowned for its unspoilt coral gardens, giant clams, lumbering potato cods and other abundant reef and game fish. The spectacular seascapes combining islands, lagoons, steep 'drop-offs' and oceanic waters, as well as the sense of wilderness, are attracting an increasing number of visitors to the area, from both Australia and overseas. Most visitors arrive on commercial tour boats and enjoy SCUBA diving and snorkelling, sports fishing for game fish, boating and island-based activities such as beachcombing. Nature-based tourism is a growing industry. Commercial fishing is prohibited in the marine park.



The scientific value of the Rowley Shoals Marine Park is considerable. Because of its relatively undisturbed condition, the Rowley Shoals Marine Park is an important domestic and international scientific reference location against which the 'health' of intensively used reefs of WA and the Indo-West Pacific can be compared. Such comparisons are essential to our understanding of the effects of human activities on coral reef communities.



What can you do to care for the Rowley Shoals Marine Park?

KNOW your park, the boundaries, the regulations, the zones and what you can do, and where.

UNDERSTAND how your activities may affect the marine park.

INVOLVE yourself and others in caring for the marine park:

- Take your litter home with you when you leave.
- Avoid disturbing or feeding marine wildlife such as birds or fish.
- Observe fishing restrictions, bag limits and size limits.
- Be active and take part in the Marine Community Monitoring Program (contact CALM for details).

The Marine Community Monitoring Program

You can become actively involved in conserving the Rowley Shoals Marine Park by taking part in integrated programs to monitor and increase our understanding of the marine plants and animals on the seabed, fish species, and how the area is used.

The Management Advisory Committee

Industry, local users and the community will be able to contribute to the ongoing management of the marine park through the Management Advisory Committee that helps CALM to manage the marine reserves. (Contact CALM for details.)

Remember if we all work together we can protect and enjoy this magnificent environment!

Peter & Margy Nicholas/Loshman Transparencies

ZONING SCHEME for the ROWLEY SHOALS MARINE PARK

LEGEND

Zoning for Rowley Shoals Marine Park

- Sanctuary Zone
- Recreation Zone
- General Use Zone
- Reef Edge
- CALM Managed Lands

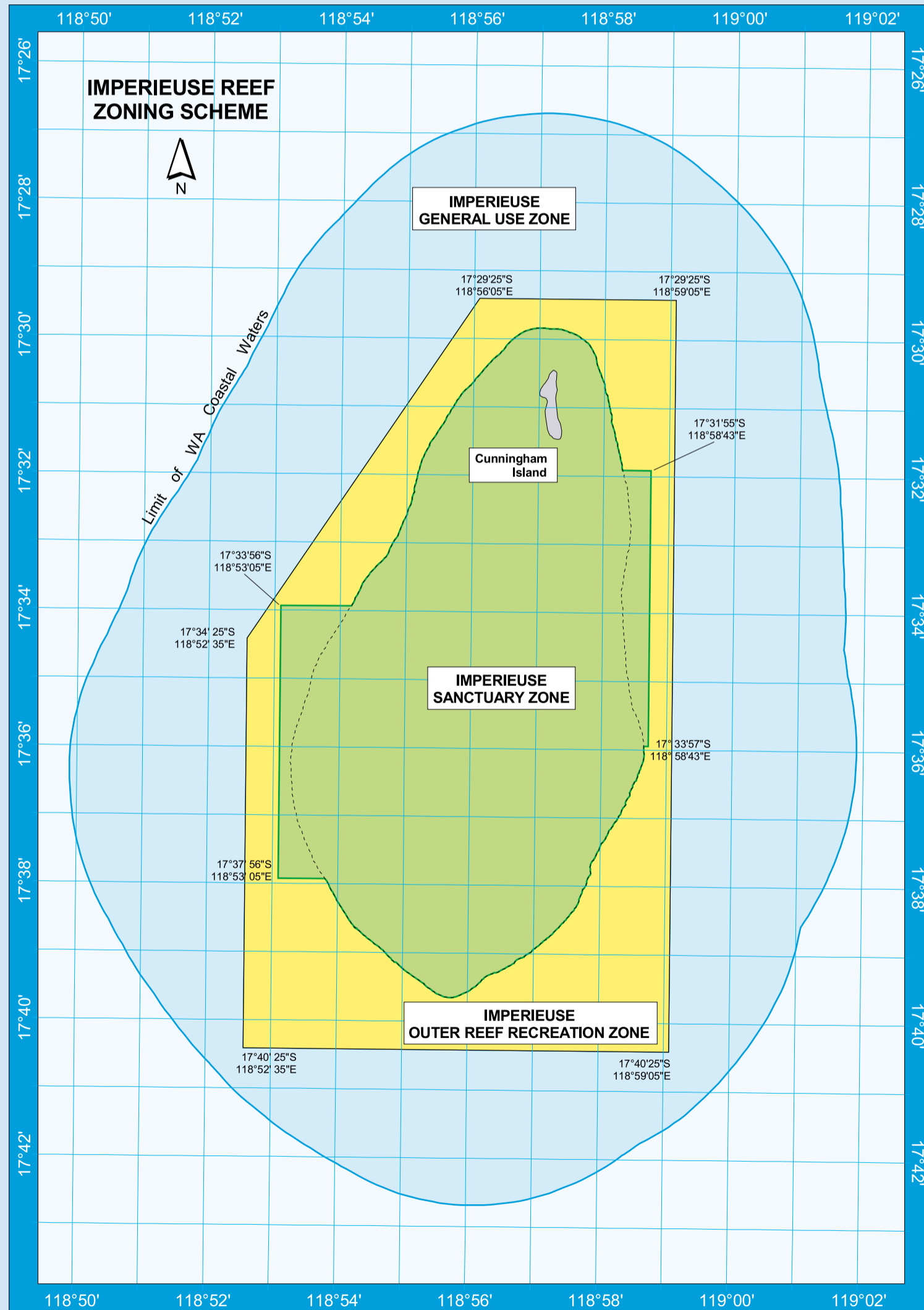
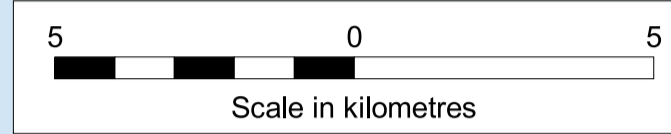
CAVEAT
This map is not to be used for navigational purposes. Positional accuracy should be considered as approximate.

GDA
PROJECTION: UTM50
DATUM: GDA94

MPRA
MARINE PARKS & RESERVES AUTHORITY

Government of Western Australia
DEPARTMENT OF Conservation
AND LAND MANAGEMENT
Concerning the future of WA

Produced by CALM, Marine Conservation Branch 02 December 2004 (pk)



USES PERMITTED IN EACH ZONE OF THE ROWLEY SHOALS MARINE PARK

Y. Yes.
N. No.
A. Proposal will be assessed by relevant agencies in accordance with standard procedures.
S. Proposals for moorings will be considered in accordance with the moorings plan, and assessed by the DPI (for safety considerations) and CALM (for environmental, recreational and equity considerations).

a. Subject to the Western Australian Marine Act 1982.
b. Subject to the FRM Act 1994 and/or PEARLING Act 1990.
c. Subject to the licence and the provisions of the CALM Act 1984 and WC Act 1950.
d. Licence required from CALM and/or DoF and/or DoE/EPA.
e. Anchoring may be restricted in specific areas to protect fragile subtidal coral reef communities. However, these restrictions would not apply to a situation where life and property is threatened.
f. Subject to the EP Act, 1986.
g. Spearfishing allowed except in lagoon.

ACTIVITY	Rowley Shoals Marine Park		
	General Use Zone	Recreation Zone	Sanctuary Zone
COMMERCIAL			
Commercial fishing ^b	N	N	N
Commercial specimen collecting	N	N	N
Aquaculture and pearling	A	N	N
Mineral and petroleum drilling and development ^f	A	N	N
Mineral and petroleum exploration (seismic) ^f	A	A	A
Charter vessels - fishing ^d	Y	Y	N
Charter vessels - other ^c	Y	Y	Y
Other tourism activities (e.g. sea planes) ^{a,d}	Y	A	A
Wildlife interaction ^c	Y	Y	Y
RECREATION			
Recreational line fishing ^b	Y	Y	N
Recreational netting ^b	Y	N	N
Spearfishing ^b	Y	Y ^g	N
Spearfishing on compressed air ^b	Y	N	N
Recreational specimen collecting	N	N	N
Diving and snorkelling	Y	Y	Y
Surface water sports ^a	Y	Y	Y
Anchoring ^e	Y	Y	Y
Boating (motor and non-motorised boating) ^a	Y	Y	Y
OTHER			
Petroleum pipelines (including dredging for pipelines) ^f	A	N	N
Dredging and dredge spoil dumping for shipping activities ^f	A	N	N
Moorings ^d	Y	S	S
Other Structures	A	A	A
Research ^d	Y	Y	Y

