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Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

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PRIORITIES IN 2006/07 INCLUDE:

- a review of historical, current and planned marine conservation research and monitoring programs in WA;
- further monitoring of the coral-eating marine snail, *Drupella cornus*, in Ningaloo Marine Park;
- coral reef recovery studies in Ningaloo Marine Park and Barrow Island Marine Management Area;
- comparative marine biodiversity surveys of the Rowley Shoals Marine Park;
- marine biodiversity mapping and monitoring studies in the Montebello/Barrow islands marine conservation reserves, Jurien Bay Marine Park and metropolitan marine parks;
- developing marine science plans for the proposed marine conservation reserves in the Dampier Archipelago/Cape Preston area, the South-West Capes region and the Walpole/Nornalup Inlets; and
- support of relevant postgraduate student research projects with Marine Science Program seed funding.



For more information, contact the
Program Leader, Marine Science Program,
on **08 9334 0476**.

Marine Science PROGRAM



Marine Science PROGRAM

To ensure that Western Australia's marine biodiversity conservation program is based on good science, a new Marine Science Program has been established within the Science Division of the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC).

This initiative, which complements DEC's extensive terrestrial science capacity, represents a significant increase in the capacity of DEC to provide a strong scientific foundation for the management of WA's world-class system of marine protected areas (MPAs) and for the conservation of the State's unique marine biodiversity.

The Marine Science Program will focus on the ecological and social marine science (i.e. research, monitoring and science communication) necessary to inform adaptive management of our marine protected areas and for the conservation of the State's marine biodiversity in general.

The program will also contribute to the biophysical and social surveys and research needed to identify and plan for new MPAs, develop marine policy and for regional marine planning.

The program will take the lead role in DEC's participation in the Western Australian Marine Science Institution, including its Ningaloo Research Program, and for establishing and delivering strategic collaborations with marine science providers including universities, the Australian Institute of Marine Science, CSIRO, other agencies, industry and community groups.

The Marine Science Program has funding which will be used to increase departmental capacity to undertake marine science, provide leverage for collaborative projects through external science providers or commission research and monitoring as required. Marine science projects will address priorities outlined in existing marine management plans and other information needs as required.

