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Proposed Marine Conservation Reserves in the Pilbara

WHAT are Western Australian marine conservation reserves?

Marine conservation reserves are:

- Managed sustainably—ensure that human uses do not overload the environment;
- Multiple use—cater for commercial and recreational activities; and,
- Zoned—to protect environmental values, separate incompatible activities and minimise environmental damage.

WHY have marine conservation reserves?

The Western Australian marine environment is owned by all Western Australians and is a common asset available to all users. While the freedom of open access is cherished by most Western Australians, increasing levels of human use often lead to conflict among users and to environmental degradation.

Western Australian marine conservation reserves have two primary roles:

- To preserve samples of all marine ecosystems, and
- To put a management framework in place that ensures the various human uses are managed in an equitable, integrated and sustainable manner.

WHERE in the Pilbara?

Both the Dampier Archipelago to Cape Preston region and the Montebello/Barrow islands region are to be considered for reservation.

HOW are marine conservation reserves developed?

The planning process relies heavily on community participation.

Community based advisory committees help determine reserve boundaries, management zones and management strategies. This is expressed in the form of a draft management plan. After a plan has been prepared, there is an additional three month public submission period.

You are encouraged to get involved.

WHEN will Pilbara marine conservation reserve planning occur?

The first meeting of community advisory committees is expected to take place in mid 2000. Because of extensive public involvement the establishment of marine conservation reserves in the Pilbara is likely to take three years.

For more information contact the CALM office in Karratha (08) 9431 488, or the CALM office in Fremantle (08) 9432 5103.

