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Safety hints for **swimming and snorkelling at Coral Bay**

Welcome to the beauty and splendour of the underwater world of Ningaloo Marine Park at Coral Bay. Snorkelling the warm, relatively shallow waters of Bills Bay will reveal an exciting variety of fish and corals. This area currently also provides an anchorage for permitted boat operators and serves as a small boat launching facility. Therefore, to ensure that you will have a safe and enjoyable experience while swimming and snorkelling at Coral Bay, it is important for you to become familiar with the boating use patterns as well as following some simple safety procedures.

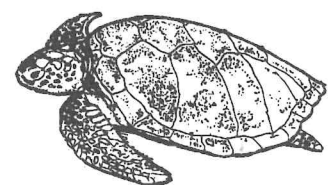
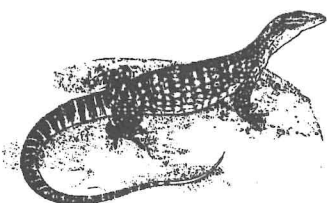
The map on the back of this Park Note shows the main location of boating activity in southern Bills Bay. Boats moored in Bills Bay generally enter and leave the bay via the recommended boating track. It is here that you are most likely to encounter boating traffic. Boats entering the Bay must not travel at a speed exceeding 5 knots within the boundary shown (see "Coral Bay Boating Guide" for further detail). To the west of Fletcher Hill an area adjacent to the beach has been marked with yellow floats alerting snorkellers that they are entering the recommended boating track. Swimming is recommended in the south-east part of Bills Bay; this 'boating prohibited area' has been demarcated with pyramid shaped yellow floats.

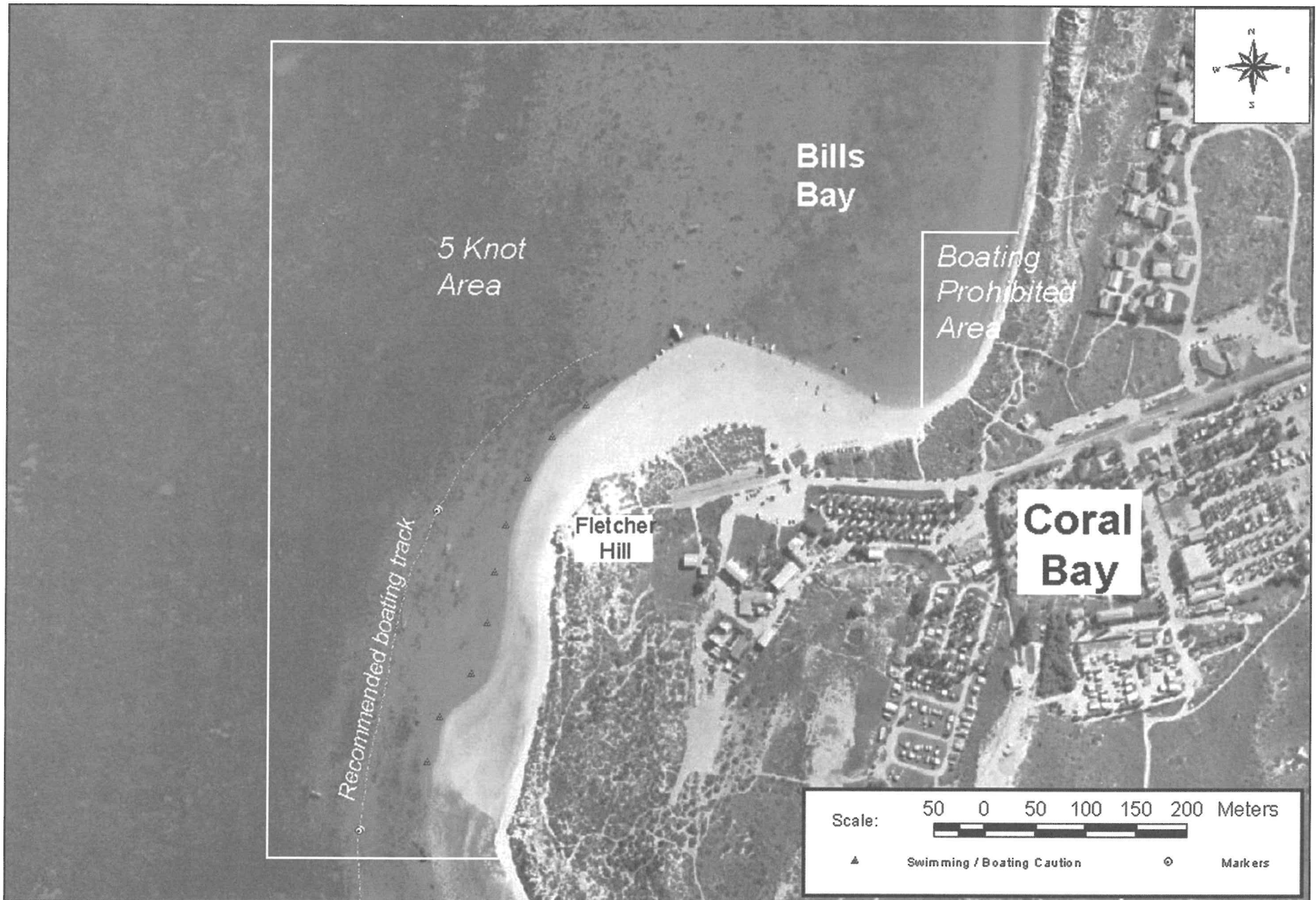
Keep a constant lookout for boats before entering and while in the water. In the interest of safety, you should follow these basic rules:

- Check for boat movements frequently and at regular intervals.
Be especially alert when swimming in the vicinity of the recommended boating track.
- Keep an eye on approaching boats. Do not assume that they will see you.
- If unsure whether the skipper of the boat has seen you, raise your arm straight out above your head to signal your presence.
- If a vessel appears to head towards you, look towards the vessel and wait for directions from boat crew for a safe position in the water.
- Wear brightly coloured swimwear or sun-protection suit.
- Tow a bright float on a line while swimming with the addition of a dive flag when snorkelling as it marks your position at all times.
- It is best to swim or snorkel in the company of at least one other person.
Stay close together and take turns at keeping a lookout.
- Near shallow reef, avoid touching or standing on corals to minimise your chance of injury.
- Do not exceed your capability. You are the best judge of your comfort zone.

Safety is everyone's responsibility. Take the time to become familiar with this information before venturing into Bills Bay. Use common sense and diligence at all times to make your stay at Coral Bay a safe and memorable experience.

For further information, please contact the
Department of Conservation and Land
Management's District Office on 9949 1676.





Coral Bay map showing Bills Bay, 5 knot restricted speed area and recommended boating track.