

DEP staff join CALM's Marine Conservation Branch

WELCOME aboard to Chris Simpson and Nick D'Adamo, who have been transferred from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), to join CALM's Marine Conservation Branch.

They are located in CALM's new premises at 47 Henry Street, Fremantle.*

Expansion of the Marine Branch followed a decision by the State Government to establish a system of marine conservation reserves around Western Australia's 14,000-kilometre coastline.

The Wilson Report (headed by Dr Barry Wilson and involving many agencies, including CALM) has listed nearly seventy areas around the coast that are worthy of consideration as marine reserves, from the tropical waters of the Kimberleys in the north to the colder waters of the south coast.

New statutory authority

The State government is about to set up a statutory Marine Parks and Reserves Authority (MPRA) under the CALM Act, as a vesting and advisory body for marine conservation reserves.

Management responsibility will rest with CALM, through its regional and district network.

The Marine Branch is part of the Nature Conservation Division, under the direction of Keiran McNamara.

It will co-ordinate the establishment of marine reserves, and (with the regions) improve the scientific basis for management of existing marine reserves.

The Marine Conservation Branch will provide technical advice to the MPRA and to others within CALM, as well as co-ordinating CALM's marine activities.

New manager

Chris Simpson is the new Branch Manager. His qualifications are B.App.Sc.(Biol); Grad.Dip.Nat.Res. (Marine); PhD (Marine ecology). He was Manager of the Marine Impacts Branch at DEP.

He has had 18 years' experience working throughout WA's marine environment.

His specialist knowledge includes: coral reef ecology, and extensive experience of WA, reefs including the Pilbara, Ningaloo Reef and the Abrolhos Island areas; strategic planning in the marine environment; effects of dredging on coral reefs; effect of natural disturbances on WA coral reefs; impacts of oil industry on WA tropical marine environments; seagrass ecology; the effects of nutrient enrichment in temperate marine systems of WA; marine habitat mapping; statistics and experimental design; underwater photography; design of monitoring programs; project management of multi-disciplinary marine studies (study leader for Albany Harbours Environmental Study [1988-89] and Southern Metropolitan Coastal Waters Study [1991-94]).

Nick D'Adamo is an oceanographer, with 13 years' experience. He studied Civil Engineering at the University of Western Australia, specialising in oceanography through to a Masters and a PhD through

the University of Canterbury in New Zealand).

Past studies include: flushing of the Yunderup and Murray Lakes canal developments; water quality studies of the eutrophic Murray River Estuary (Peel Harvey system) to investigate physical and water quality factors relating to fish deaths in the river; field and numerical modelling of the hydrodynamics of the Venice Lagoon and adjacent rivers, Italy to assist in decision-making to address water quality problems in the lagoon, and the flooding of the City of Venice; field studies of water circulation and mixing of pollutants in Lake Geneva, Switzerland; studies of mixing in the Adriatic Sea and in several northern Italian lakes; field studies of water circulation and mixing in the Albany Harbours and adjacent ocean waters, field studies of the water circulation and mixing in Perth's coastal waters (Yanchep-Mandurah-continental slope) in the DEP's *Southern Metropolitan Coastal Waters Study* (1991-1994).

It is essential to understand and predict the movement and mixing of water and contained substances, such as larvae, contaminants, and sediments, between areas of interest in marine reserves. Nick, therefore, will be involved, among other duties, in the oceanographic aspects of marine reserve boundary selection, zoning, implementation and monitoring.

The Marine Conservation Branch also includes CALM staff members, Greg Pobar, (who has returned from his



Marine Conservation Branch manager Chris Simpson, right, with oceanographer Nick D'Adamo.

Photo by Verna Costello

stint as Rottnest Island Environmental Manager), Jeremy Colman, Sue Osborne and Stella King.

Two other marine scientists, Jennie Cary and Jim Burt, have also been trans-

ferred from DEP to CALM. They are currently on leave, and will be joining the Branch at a later date.

Profiles of Jennie and Jim will appear in a later edition of CALM NEWS.

* Marine Conservation Branch shares CALM's Henry Street, Fremantle premises with the Aboriginal Tourism Unit and the Swan Region Marine Operations Group.

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Nick D'Adamo & Chris Simpson

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