

MARMION SANCTUARY ZONES GAZETTED

Marine life in the three sanctuary zones in Marmion Marine Park now enjoy greater protection as a result of a recently issued Order under the Fish Resources Management Act.

The sanctuary zones were created under the CALM Act in March 1999 as part of the management plan for the park, released in 1992. However, a complementary Order under the Fish Resources Management Act was required to officially prohibit fishing and collecting in these zones, and this was gazetted in November 1999.

Marine and Coastal Districts Conservation Officer Kevin Crane said the three sanctuary zones were in waters around Boyinaboat Reef, Little

Island and The Lumps.

"These zones provide total protection of environmental values through the exclusion of human activities likely to impact on the ecology of the areas," Mr Crane said.

"They provide scientific reference areas, protect areas of special value and will provide refuges for some species. For example, Little Island is a haul-out area for Australian sea lions, and people anchoring boats on the island can impact adversely on the animals. "People can still anchor in sand away from the shore, but we do ask that they keep their visits to no more than 10 minutes, so as to cause minimal disruption to the sea lions."

In addition to the creation



since 1989. Now, spearfishing using SCUBA is no longer permitted anywhere in the marine park. However, snorkellers are still permitted to spearfish beyond 1,800 metres of the shore.

Each sanctuary zone is clearly marked on each corner by a yellow spar marker, and signs have been installed at boat ramps and next to Boyinaboat reef. As well, CALM will be distributing brochures to recreational fishers and making them available at dive, tackle and boating shops.

of the new sanctuary zones, additional restrictions on spearfishing throughout the marine park have also been put in place. All spearfishing has been prohibited within 1,800 metres of the shore

For further details of zone boundaries and regulations visit the Department's Marine and Coastal District office at 47 Henry Street, Fremantle or phone (08) 9432 5111.

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One of the best selling books from CALM has recently been fully revised. See 'The Best of the South-West' on page 10.



A new weapon against the scourge of feral cats was recently tested on Hermite Island. See 'Isle of Cats' on page 18.



In the far north of WA, there is evidence of not one, but two cosmic impacts. See 'Cosmic Impacts in the Kimberley' on page 28.



Satellite imagery is helping us to fight maritime pollution. See 'Looking Through the Surface' on page 41.



A unique network links volunteer groups and regional herbaria with the CALM flora database. See 'Name That Plant' on page 35.

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COVER

Western Australia is aptly described as the Wildflower State. Some 12,500 different species are known from the wild, with a huge range of colours, shapes and characters. But many species once found are lost again, and it's always an event when a species thought to be extinct is rediscovered. See 'Lost Jewels in the Bush' on page 23.



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