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Issue 24 - Summer 2025

## Welcome to the 24th issue of *Ngari Capes Marine Park News*

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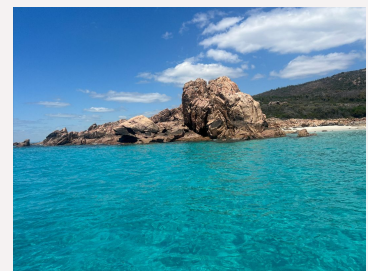


Image right: Castle Rock, by Eden Harris

## Marine park update

*By Parks and Wildlife Service, Blackwood*

Welcome to our first edition for 2025 of the Ngari Capes Marine Park (NCMP) Newsletter! We're excited to bring you updates and stories from our popular marine park.

In this edition, we're thrilled to introduce Dean, the newest member of the marine team. Dean will be joining us for the busy summer and autumn period. We're delighted to have him on board, and you can learn more about him in the 'Meet the Team' segment below.

You'll also find articles about the new sanctuary zone markers installed at Kilcarnup, which play a crucial role in protecting our marine life. Additionally, as boating season kicks off, it's important to remain informed on mooring management in the marine park. With rising boat ownership, DBCA is managing the increased demand for moorings to keep our waters safe and pristine. Learn all about the dos and don'ts when it comes to moorings in the marine park in our 'Mooring Information' segment below.

We're pleased to feature guest segments from the Busselton Jetty, showcasing their new Marine Discovery Centre. This centre invites you to explore the aquatic wonders of Australia's offshore marine parks in the South West region, including the South-West Corner Marine Park, the Geographe Marine Park, and the Perth Canyon Marine Park. Read the latest news from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) about a rare oarfish found on Abbey Beach, and learn what to do if you ever come across an interesting species washed ashore. Lastly, we are excited to promote the River Guardians' summer school holiday dolphin education event at the picturesque Meelup Beach. Get all the details below for this kid-friendly event.





**Above left:** Marine Ranger Eden with River Guardians Education Officer Naomi on board PV Leeuwin in Geographe Bay on a Dolphin Education Patrol.

**Above right:** NCMP Weedy Seadragon mascot at the Dunsborough Bay Ok Day.

Our team has been busy above the water with educational events for local school children, such as the "Say G'day to the Bay" event in Dunsborough and the Bio Blitz in Ellensbrook. We have also begun the annual testing of rock anchor points used by fishers along the coast, these are particularly popular during the salmon season and school holidays. Additionally, with the summer season upon us, we've stepped up our compliance patrols to ensure everyone enjoys the marine park responsibly and safely.



**Images above:** Marine Ranger Dean testing and tagging the rock anchors at Sugarloaf Rock.

Below the water, our marine team has been putting their diving skills to good use and have completed visitor risk management checks at key recreation sites within the Blackwood district national parks and terrestrial reserves. During these checks, they also remove any rubbish they find to help keep our inland marine environment clean and safe for park users.



**Image above left:** Marine Rangers Josh and Glen brave the chilly waters at Chapman Pool searching for and removing submerged hazards as well as removing any rubbish they find along the way.

Thank you for your continued support and interest in our work. We hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter.

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## Meet the team - Marine Ranger Dean

*By Parks and Wildlife Service, Blackwood*

I grew up in the coastal town of Carnarvon, where my love for the ocean was born. My childhood was spent fishing, surfing and exploring the remote WA coastline which gave me a deep appreciation of the unique land we call home.

For over a decade I worked with Fisheries across the state as a compliance officer to help manage and protect Western Australia's incredible marine resources. Those years gave me valuable skills and experience in preserving our marine ecosystems.

Now, I'm grateful for the opportunity to continue working in marine conservation with DBCA and expanding my knowledge and experience in helping to protect not only fish, but mammals, birds and reptiles too.

In my free time you'll find me in the surf when the winds are offshore. Once the sea breeze is in, I'll be in my shed making furniture or painting seascapes on local slabs of timber.





**Above:** Dean completing a beach clean-up near Augusta

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## **Busselton Jetty**

*By the Busselton Jetty*

Busselton Jetty's new Marine Discovery Centre invites you to explore the aquatic marvels that lay within Australia's offshore marine parks of the South West region including the South-West Corner Marine Park, the Geographe Marine Park and the Perth Canyon Marine Park. This interactive and educational hub is more than just a window into the world beneath the waves; it's a gateway to understanding, protecting, and celebrating the Western Australian marine ecosystems. Each marine park location within the room has an identified theme and an associated human impact and mitigation to drive not only discovery of unseen marine environments, but also understanding of their value and what we can do to protect these habitats.



**Above:** Busselton Jetty's new Marine Discovery Centre by Lauren Trickett.

### **Discover, Learn, Protect**

Step inside the centre, where cutting-edge exhibits and engaging displays transport visitors into vibrant ecosystems; from the sprawling seagrass meadows of Ngari Capes Marine Park and Geographe Marine Park to the deep canyons teeming with life, the centre brings these hidden worlds to life. Control a remote-operated vehicle to explore the deep ocean or peer into the microscopic world of marine sediment under our high-tech microscope.

The Marine Discovery Centre isn't just about awe and wonder—it's about stewardship. Programs here emphasize the importance of protecting our oceans, offering insights into how even small changes in daily habits can create ripples of positive impact. Did you know that oceans store 50 times more carbon than the atmosphere, playing a vital role in combating climate change? Visitors are inspired to become ocean guardians through hands-on activities, expert talks, and an interactive central table that maps the rich biodiversity of our local marine parks.

### **Fun Meets Purpose**

The Marine Discovery Centre is ideal for families, adventurers, and curious minds alike. Children can embark on exciting challenges like spotting marine mascots, while adults can marvel at the region's breathtaking natural history. Learn about the fascinating bioluminescence of deep-sea creatures, witness the beauty of Western Australia's marine parks, and even discover how marine sponges under the jetty could hold the key to ground-breaking cancer research.

### **A Community Legacy**

The Marine Discovery Centre is a testament to Busselton Jetty's commitment to conservation and education. Operated by Busselton Jetty Inc., a not-for-profit organisation, all proceeds from the Marine Discovery Centre contribute to preserving the jetty's legacy and the incredible biodiversity it supports.

### **Plan Your Visit**

Tickets can be booked online or at the Interpretive Centre at the Busselton Jetty entrance. Don't miss this opportunity to be part of a journey that's as educational as it is inspiring—a true sea of discovery awaits.





**Above:** Busselton Jetty's new Marine Discovery Centre by Lauren Trickett.

## Mooring Information for Ngari Capes Marine Park

*Parks and Wildlife Service, Blackwood*

### **Hello Boaters!**

As boating season kicks into high gear, it's essential to stay informed about mooring practices in the stunning Ngari Capes Marine Park. With the rise in boat ownership, the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) are working hard to manage the increasing demand for moorings. Here's what you need to know to keep our waters safe and pristine.



**Above:** Mooring area at Quindalup, in NCMP

### Types of Moorings

DBCAs manages several types of moorings:

- **Private Moorings:** Owned and maintained by individuals or organisations.
- **Public Moorings:** Free for public use on a first-come, first-served basis.
- **Rental Moorings:** Available under a rental mooring license.

### Ngari Capes Marine Park Moorings

All moorings in Ngari Capes Marine Park are privately owned. There are no rental or hire moorings available and it is an offence to use another person's mooring without permission.

### Do's and Don'ts of Mooring

#### Do:

- Use designated moorings to protect marine habitats.
- Check mooring conditions and ensure your vessel is securely attached.
- Report any damage or issues with moorings to the relevant authorities.

#### Don't:

- Anchor in sensitive areas like coral reefs or seagrass beds.
- Overstay your welcome on public moorings; be mindful of others waiting to use them.
- Ignore maintenance; ensure your mooring equipment is in good condition.

### Getting Permission

Permission is required to install, own or use moorings in WA marine parks and reserves. It is an offence to install a mooring without permission or to use another person's mooring without their permission. For specific enquiries, contact the DBCA Blackwood District office on 9752 5555.

For more information, visit the DBCA Moorings site: [Moorings | Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions](#)

Stay safe and enjoy your boating adventures responsibly

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## Dolphin education

*By Parks and Wildlife Service, River Guardians*

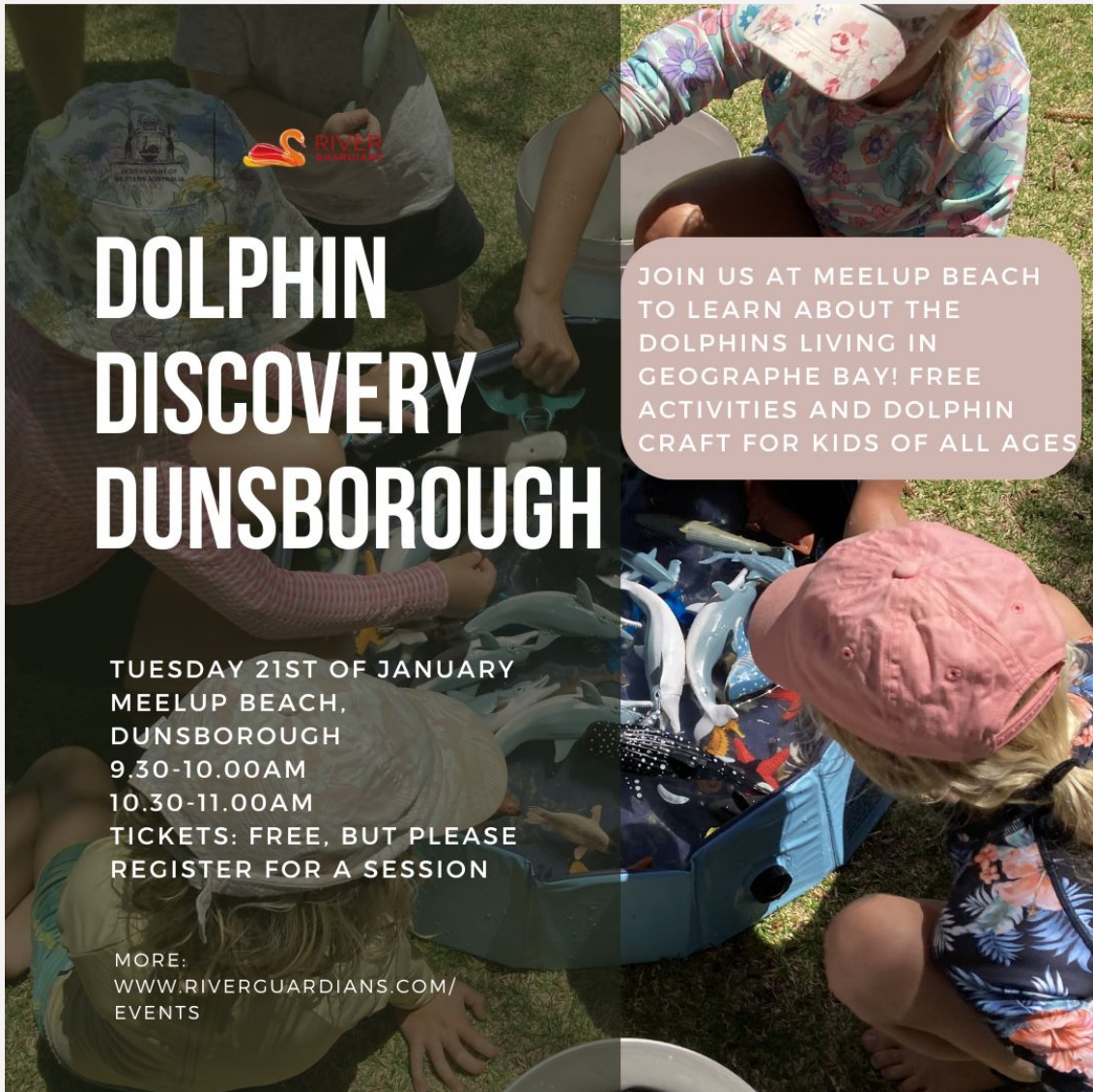
Join us for a fun morning of FREE activities, craft and a touch table at Meelup Beach, Dunsborough. During the activity you will learn all about the Indo-pacific bottlenose dolphins that visit Geographe Bay and discover some of the ways you can protect our local dolphins from fishing line and vessel strikes. There will be numerous activities including games and craft suitable for children 4-7 years of age, but all children are welcome to attend. Please note this is not a drop off event and all children must remain supervised by an adult. Please reserve a ticket for all children participating in the activity.

If you have any questions about this activity, please email [community@dbca.wa.gov.au](mailto:community@dbca.wa.gov.au)

Please book for this event by following the link below:

<https://parksandwildlife.rezdy.com/471272/dolphin-discovery-dunsborough>





# DOLPHIN DISCOVERY DUNSBOROUGH

JOIN US AT MEELUP BEACH  
TO LEARN ABOUT THE  
DOLPHINS LIVING IN  
GEOGRAPHE BAY! FREE  
ACTIVITIES AND DOLPHIN  
CRAFT FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES

TUESDAY 21ST OF JANUARY  
MEELUP BEACH,  
DUNSBOROUGH  
9.30-10.00AM  
10.30-11.00AM  
TICKETS: FREE, BUT PLEASE  
REGISTER FOR A SESSION

MORE:  
[WWW.RIVERGUARDIANS.COM/  
EVENTS](http://WWW.RIVERGUARDIANS.COM/EVENTS)

## Oar-some beach find!

*By the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD)*

Have you ever been beachcombing and come across a three-metre long fish, with a ribbon shaped body adorned with leopard print like patterns and long skinny red pelvic fins?

No? Well you wouldn't be alone. These creatures from the deep seem to only wash ashore the white sandy beaches of Geographe Bay once or twice a year, making it a rare beachcombing find. Unfortunately, it's usually the end of their life cycle.

This spectacular looking fish is called an oarfish. It is thought to get its name from its elongated pelvic fins, that in times gone by were said to move in a circular motion imitating a 'rowing' action. However, it is now believed that these unusual looking pelvic fins are used for taste perception, not locomotion.

Recently one of these beautiful looking fish was reported by a local community member to have washed ashore on a sandy beach in Abbey. In the name of science, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development hit the



beach to collect some data from the oarfish and bag up the large specimen to send off to the Perth Send us your skeletons (SUYS) team for further scientific examination. Researchers at Hillarys will determine the age and sex of the fish and examine the gut contents.

The SUYS team primarily collects fish frames of key nearshore and demersal finfish but also welcomes donations of weird and wonderful fish discoveries that the local community comes across.

You can find your nearest SUYS drop-off location at [www.fish.wa.gov.au/frames](http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/frames) or to enquire about our staff picking up frames from your house, please call Kim Clayton on 0419 192 101 or email [fishframes@dpird.wa.gov.au](mailto:fishframes@dpird.wa.gov.au).



**Above:** Three metre long Oarfish found at Abbey Beach by DPIRD.

## New Sanctuary Zone Marker Buoys for Kilcarnup Sanctuary Zone!

*By Parks and Wildlife Service, Blackwood*

We are excited to announce the installation of four temporary marker buoys in the Kilcarnup Sanctuary Zone! These four marker buoys demarcate the inside boundary of the sanctuary zone, closest to the shore. This initiative aims to make it easier for everyone to identify the boundaries of this uniquely shaped sanctuary zone and improve visitor experience.

In and around the Kilcarnup sanctuary zone are six Western Rock Lobster puerulus (post-larvae) collectors managed by DPIRD Fisheries for the monitoring of puerulus. These collectors have often been mistaken as buoys marking the sanctuary zone boundary when in fact they are instead a very important tool used by Fisheries Research Scientist to estimate stock levels and manage future catches of western rock lobster.



**Above:** Marine Ranger Glen and National Park Ranger Alex installing Sanctuary Zone markers at Kilcarnup.



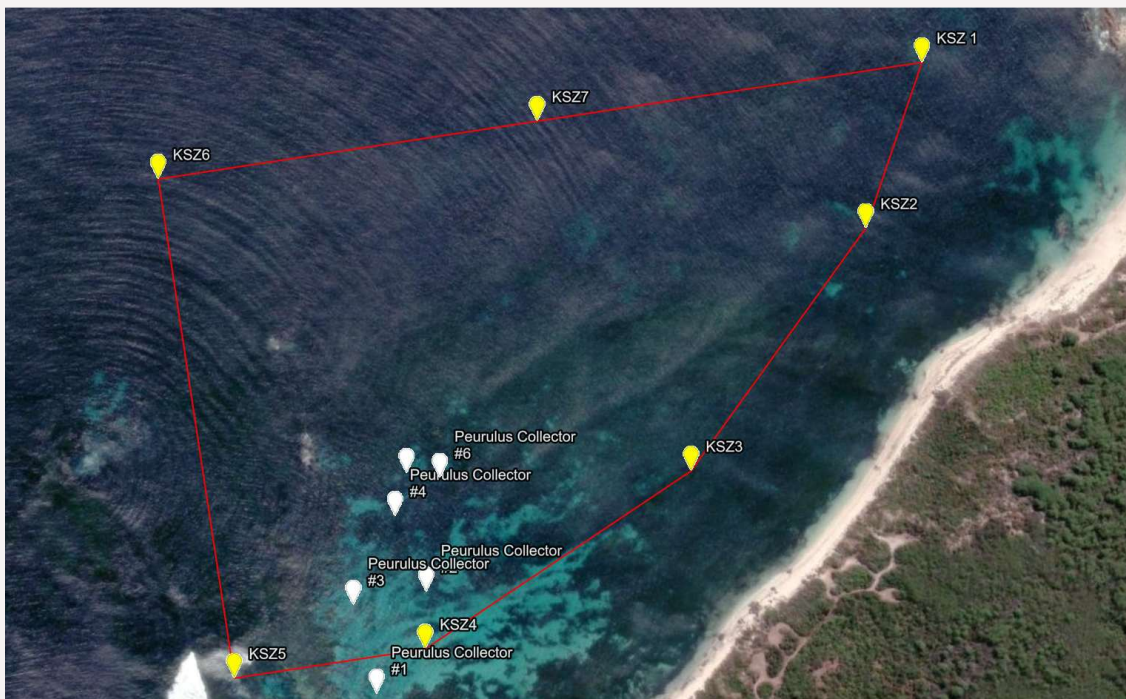
**Above Left:** Yellow sanctuary zone marker. **Above right:** White buoy marking DPIRD puerulus collector.

To avoid confusion between the four recently installed sanctuary zone markers and the puerulus collectors, the bouys are easily distinguished by colour and are clearly labelled: the puerulus collectors have a white float, while the sanctuary zone markers are yellow and clearly labelled with the words "Sanctuary Zone."



If you're interested in the latest data from these puerulus settlements, please click here: [Western Rock Lobster Puerulus Settlement. Updated: December](#)

Thank you for helping us protect and preserve our marine environment!



**Above:** Map of Kilcarnup Sanctuary zone where yellow sanctuary zone marker buoys. KSZ1, KSZ2, KSZ3 and KSZ4 have all been installed, also seen on the map are six White Western Rock Lobster puerulus settlement

## Keeping connected and up to date

Understanding the designated zones and their respective activities is crucial for a safe and enjoyable visit to Ngari Capes Marine Park. Since 2018, these zones have been in place to facilitate various recreational and commercial activities while prioritising conservation efforts. Catering to fishers, scuba divers, snorkelers, surfers, and kayakers, the zones promote sustainability and establish sanctuary areas for undisturbed appreciation of the marine environment.

To stay informed and connected, utilise resources such as the Deckee app, Marine Parks app (available for Apple devices), and the FishCatch WA app, alongside engaging with Recfishwest for insights tailored to recreational fishing. These apps provide comprehensive information on marine park regulations, enhancing visitor experiences while promoting responsible enjoyment of Western Australia's coastal treasures.



### **Marine Parks WA app (Apple only):**

Discover Western Australia's diverse marine parks, including Commonwealth marine parks, spanning Camden Sound to Walpole. This app provides comprehensive details on each park and 72 marine wildlife species. With a 'where am I?' feature, users can access zone-specific activity information, including fishing, offline.

Get the app: <https://apps.apple.com/au/app/marine-parks-wa/id1138213788>



**FishCatch WA app:**

Recreational fishers in Western Australia, exploring the waters from Kalbarri to Augusta, are invited to utilise the innovative FishCatchWA™ tool to document their demersal scalefish catches. Efficiently log your demersal catches and access valuable insights while actively contributing to scientific research. Seamlessly access the FishCatchWA™ tool through the ServiceWA app or download it now for immediate use.

App for Apple: <https://apps.apple.com/au/app/servicewa/id1599181775>

App for

Android: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=au.gov.wa.digital.service.mobile.servicewa.citizen&hl=en&gl=US>



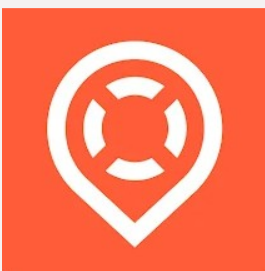
**Recfishwest app:**

Access all WA fishing rules, fish ID, GPS marine park info, and safety locations offline! High-quality illustrations and details on hundreds of species available on this free app. Stay updated on fishing seasons, bag limits, and easily identify catches with Recfishwest's three-step fish ID.

App for Apple: <https://apps.apple.com/au/app/recfishwest/id1103630115>

App for

Android: [https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.redi.rfw.production&hl=en\\_AU&gl=US&pli=1](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.redi.rfw.production&hl=en_AU&gl=US&pli=1)



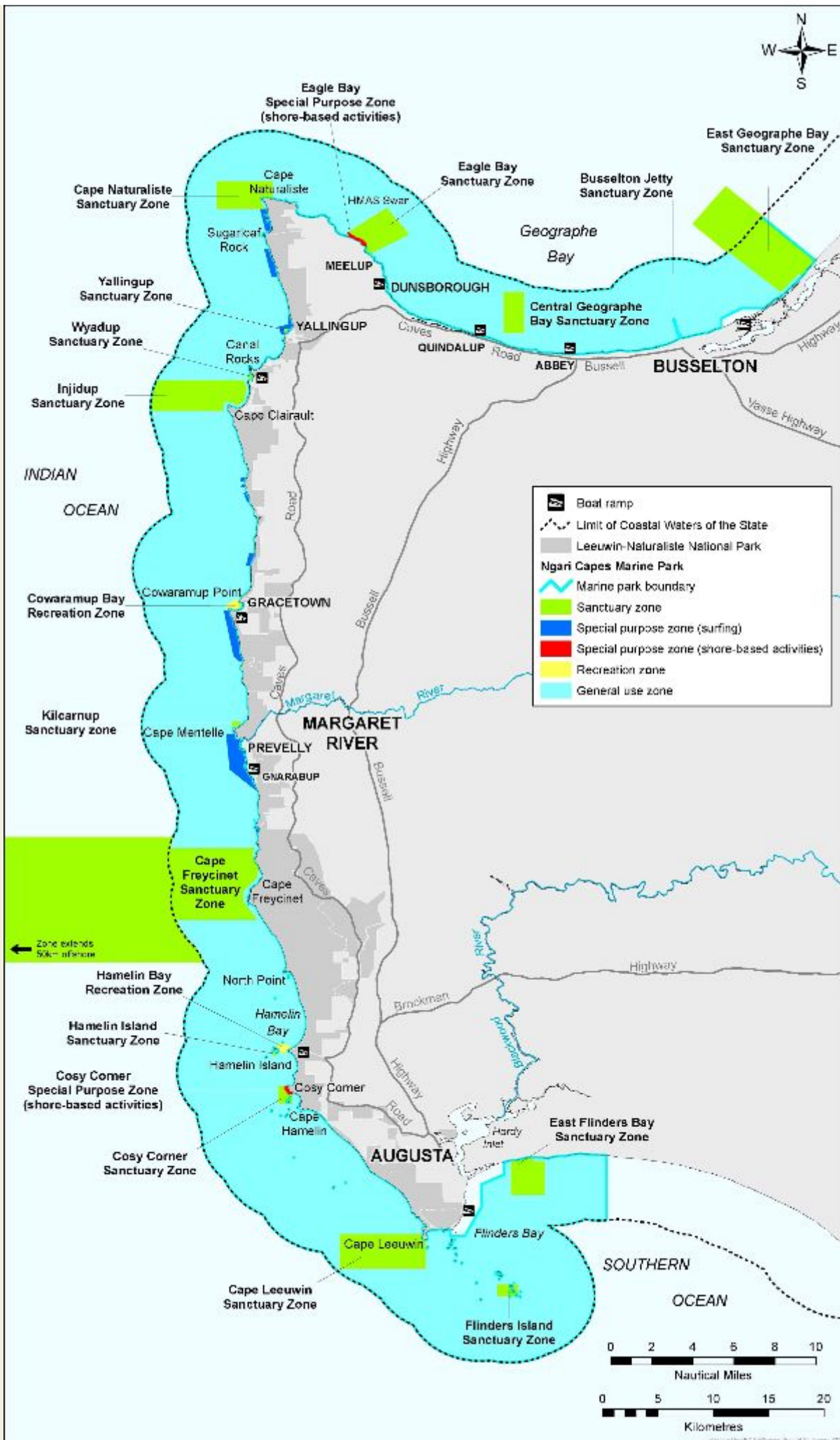
**Deckee boating app:**

DECKEE is a comprehensive boating assistant with features including on-water location sharing, automated logbooks, marine weather, safety alerts, and more, ensuring confident navigation for users. It offers automatic on-water detection, global member visibility, risk forecasting, activity logging, local knowledge heatmaps, interactive chart info, and worldwide vessel tracking, catering to both novice and experienced boaters.

App for Apple: <https://apps.apple.com/au/app/deckee-boating/id1402262696>


App for Android:




[https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.deckee.app&hl=en\\_AU&gl=US](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.deckee.app&hl=en_AU&gl=US)





**Above:** Map of Ngari Capes Marine Park showing zones plus national park zones in adjacent Australian marine parks.



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